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*The*  
**BULLETIN**  
*of the*  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
**AUDUBON SOCIETY**



FEBRUARY, 1954

VOLUME XXXVIII

NUMBER 2

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# MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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## FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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# BULLETIN

OF THE

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Cover Illustration, BIRDS AT THE WINDOW, Hal H. Harrison.

## The President's Page



Responsible gunners in and out of sportsmen's associations are becoming quite apprehensive of the closing of a great many opportunities to hunt through the posting of desirable covers by their owners. This seems to be a case where the just suffer for the offences of the unjust.

A gunner who is accustomed to the use of firearms will not make himself a nuisance on private land, but the city "tough" with no manners and no skill with his firearms will insult the owner or his family when he is requested politely not to shoot in this or that field because it may frighten the hens, or cows, or because the children are accustomed to play there, and very likely he will shoot one of the hens thinking it is a pheasant, or one of the cows which has strayed to the edge of the wood, thinking it a deer or a fox, neither of which animals he has probably ever seen unless he has visited the excellent little zoological park maintained by the Metropolitan District Commission at Spot Pond.

When one of our citizens wishes a license to operate that "deadly weapon" an automobile, he has to pass a careful examination as to his hearing and his eyesight and, furthermore, to give an exhibition on the street of his skill in the management of his machine.

Should not the responsible Fish and Game Clubs in connection with the organizations of farmers, the Grange, etc., with the backing of the Conservation Council, cause to be introduced into the General Court legislation that will provide for examinations to be given, in exchange for a fee, before a license to carry and operate firearms (rifle, shotgun, revolver, pistol) shall be issued? I personally should be glad to favor such legislation.

*Robert Leakey*



## Birds of the Prairies and the Black Hills

BY R. DUDLEY ROSS  
Part II



ALFRED M. BAILEY. FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

### The Townsend's Solitaire suggests our Mockingbird

*May 25, 1953.* A drive of five miles from Medora, North Dakota, brought the three of us, my wife Vivian, Mrs. Ruth Emery, and myself, to the headquarters of the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, where we hoped to visit a Prairie Falcon's eyrie. On our way to Headquarters we saw two Long-tailed Chats and our first Mountain Bluebirds. This bluebird is blue all over, a lighter blue than that of our Eastern Bluebird. It has been well described as a piece of sky with wings.

To our great disappointment, Neil Reid, park warden, said it would be completely out of the question to undertake the twenty-mile trip to the falcon's eyrie, even in the park jeep, because of the effect of the previous day's rain on the dirt roads. So we started for some local birding with Mr. Reid and Chester Brooks, the park historian, and their wives. Scarcely had we started when a Golden Eagle appeared, and a few moments later another flying quite low. During our pleasant morning's walk we saw the first Red-shafted Flicker of the trip, Lazuli Buntings, Swainson's Hawks, Spotted Towhees, a Say's Phoebe, and we found many Chestnut-collared Longspurs and Lark Sparrows in the park.

Mrs. Brooks told us that there had been a peculiar sparrow feeding on their lawn among the Chipping Sparrows. She and her husband had looked the bird over very carefully and had finally decided it must be a Brewer's Sparrow. We went to their home in the park and waited for the birds to commence feeding. It was not long before they came, and there, with the Chippies,

was a bird which at first glance seemed to be a young Chipping Sparrow. It was the size of a Chippy but paler, with none of the latter's brownish appearance. It was a perfectly good Brewer's Sparrow, and credit must go to the Brookses for spotting this inconspicuous bird. We learned later that there have been a few other records of the species in the western part of the Dakotas.

Our new friends then took us to a Prairie Dog town. It was amusing to watch these little animals scamper to the tops of their mounds and then sit up and utter their high-pitched bark.

After lunch we set out for the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota. Lark Buntings and Clay-colored Sparrows continued to be abundant. Just before reaching South Dakota we saw a lone Sage Grouse, and then two Pronghorn Antelopes in the distance. As we approached Belle Fourche, South Dakota, we commenced to see Antelopes every little while; sometimes one or two, and occasionally eight or ten. We counted fifty-nine in less than two hours, and one was close enough for us to snap a picture. Then we saw our second Sage Grouse, and this one we flushed so that we could see the black belly and also its impressive wingspread. Except for the Wild Turkey, this is the largest American game bird, and it was here at the extreme eastern edge of its breeding range.

We stayed that night in Spearfish, at the northern border of the Black Hills. Although this was primarily a prairie trip, we could not forego the opportunity of spending some time in these famous mountains, because a number of truly western birds occur in limited numbers here, their eastern outpost; such birds as the Western Tanager, Water Ouzel, Violet-green Swallow, White-throated Swift, Townsend's Solitaire, Clark's Nutcracker, Piñon Jay, Lewis's Woodpecker, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Audubon's and MacGillivray's Warblers. Besides wishing to see some of these representatives of our western avifauna, we also hoped to make the acquaintance of the one specialty of the Black Hills, the White-winged Junco, which is confined as a breeding bird to the Black Hills area.

May 26. We set out for Spearfish Canyon, a few miles from town. Pettengill's western *Guide* states that this is the best place for birds in the Black Hills, and it did not let him, nor us, down. Entering the canyon from the north end, we soon found ourselves dwarfed by the high rocky cliffs. Stopping and listening for a moment, we heard a high chattering sound and found the air full of White-throated Swifts milling wildly about and uttering continuously their rapid, descending call. We estimated that there were over a hundred of them. With them were a number of swallows which we at first assumed to be Tree Swallows, as they were small, and white below. Checking carefully to get a view of their backs, we were finally rewarded as some of the birds banked sharply and we could see that there were white areas at the base of the tail, showing them to be Violet-green Swallows. The following day we observed more of these birds under more favorable conditions, so that we saw their lovely violet and green coloring and also, on perched birds, the very extensive white area on the face.

Looking up over the cliffs, we saw several Turkey Vultures and four Red-tailed Hawks, two of the latter the beautiful pale Krider's Red-tail. These were so pale that their wings were translucent as the bright sun shone through them. We then saw our first Black-headed Grosbeaks and several Audubon's Warblers, which looked like Myrtle Warblers with yellow throats. Their song, however, is more emphatic and not so characterless. By way of contrast, we next found two somber-hued Western Flycatchers, followed shortly by two Western Tanagers in their red, yellow, and black finery.

After a few miles we came to Roughlock Falls (still in Spearfish Canyon), where we were hopeful that we might see that intriguing bird the Water Ouzel, or Dipper. Going down to the foot of the falls and following the creek a short distance, we suddenly saw a thrush-sized, mouse-gray bird standing on a log which had fallen across the stream. It was the longed-for Water Ouzel and, as we watched it, it bobbed many times in characteristic fashion. We stood fascinated as the bird flew to a rock in the rapid stream and calmly walked into the water and along the creek bottom as it fed.

We hustled back to Spearfish for a quick lunch before driving to Devil's Tower National Monument, Wyoming, that afternoon. This was a pleasant drive with breath-taking scenery and more excellent roadside birding. Birds seen that afternoon included Turkey Vulture, Pigeon Hawk, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Red-headed Woodpecker, Magpie, Russet-backed Thrush, Plumbeous Vireo, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Spotted Towhee, Lark Bunting, Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

May 27. Off early again to Spearfish Canyon. A bird lit on the road in front of us, and there was a Townsend's Solitaire, looking very much like a Mockingbird. However, this thrush, for such it is, is dark below and the light patches on its wings are buff-colored, not white. A little later we found a MacGillivray's Warbler, the first of fourteen we were to see that morning. This bird resembles the Mourning Warbler, but the crepe on the throat is more gray than black and it has a broken eye-ring. Then followed a Red-shafted Flicker, a dozen White-winged Juncos, and a Red-naped Sapsucker.

Back to town by 9:00 A.M. to meet Robert Gage, State Conservation Officer, to look for Wild Turkeys. After a search in Bear Gulch, we saw four birds. These were of the subspecies known as Merriam's Turkey, the largest of all the turkeys. Mr. Gage told us that in 1947 seven birds, one cock and six hens, were introduced from Arizona, and somewhat later twenty-five birds were obtained from Colorado. They found the Black Hills habitat so much to their liking that it is estimated there are now at least a thousand birds there. In 1952 they were present in every township in the Hills.

Later we went with Mr. Gage to the United States Fish Culture Station outside Spearfish, where we met Harvey Willoughby, the manager, who led us on a birding tour of the place. To three birders from Massachusetts it seemed remarkable to have no less than twelve Chats there within an hour or so. While there, Vivian and Ruth found a Western Wood Pewee, which, in spite of its close resemblance to the Eastern Wood Pewee, is a distinct species with a quite distinctive call note. As we walked through a field we flushed a Western Meadowlark from its nest and eggs. At the hatchery we also found an Orange-crowned Warbler.

After lunch, having left Mr. Gage, we birded our way down the famous Needles Highway, the "needles" being huge granite monoliths which hemmed in the narrow road on both sides. The scenery was magnificent, with Harney Peak, the highest point in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, reaching up over 7200 feet. Soon we reached Mt. Rushmore, where the heads of four former presidents of the United States have been hewn out of the solid rock. Here we heard the Solitaire's song for the first time. Two Canada Jays put in an appearance, and we saw several Audubon's Warblers and White-winged Juncos. Then we headed toward Rapid City on the western edge of the Black Hills.

*May 28.* We left Rapid City for Reno Gulch in the Black Hills, where we had been told there was a chance of seeing the Piñon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker and Lewis's Woodpecker. Although we spent some time there, we did not succeed in locating any of the three species. Another Solitaire, a Red-naped Sapsucker, some Audubon's Warblers, and Violet-green Swallows made things interesting, however.

Leaving the Gulch, we went south to Wind Cave National Park, arriving there in midafternoon, just too late for the last conducted tour of the caves. Here, again, we had some compensation for this disappointment, as we found a Say's Phoebe nesting in the headquarters building and saw two more Chats and a male Western Tanager.

We had seen twelve Buffaloes in one herd and twenty-six in another on the way to the park and saw two more inside the park. Turning back to Rapid City, we saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on the way, and this ended our all-too-brief stay in the Black Hills of the Dakotas.

*May 29.* We left Rapid City, driving easterly, and with surprising abruptness were out on the prairie again. After a quick run, with an abundance of the familiar roadside birds, we entered the Big Badlands National Monument. The Badlands were so named by the Indians because they were difficult to traverse. The soft sandstone and limestone has been eroded by wind and water over the ages, so that today there is an area of 150,000 acres, sixty miles long and two to fifteen miles in width, containing spires, peaks, ridges, buttes, and gulches, interspersed at intervals with grassy fields where cattle graze. In midsummer the streams are dry, the heat is intense, and the sun reflected from the ground and the hills is blinding. Nevertheless, the area is possessed of a weird type of beauty and fascination and should not be missed by anyone traveling in the vicinity.

Upon entering the Badlands we saw a Turkey Vulture and several Violet-green Swallows, and very shortly we heard a strange song which turned out to be that of a Rock Wren perched on top of one of the spires. On our thirty-five mile drive through the Badlands, which many people say are completely barren and lifeless, we saw six more Rock Wrens, twelve Say's Phoebes, many more Violet-green Swallows, a Grasshopper Sparrow, a dozen Lark Buntings, Mourning Doves, Red-wings, a Marsh Hawk, about a thousand Cliff Swallows, a Nighthawk, and a Cliff Chipmunk.

Upon leaving the Badlands, we continued south to the Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge at Martin, South Dakota, where we were welcomed by Kenneth Krumm, the manager, who had been expecting us. Our special purpose in visiting this refuge was to see the Long-billed Curlew, which nests here in small numbers. As Mr. Krumm was also the president of the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, he was just the man to take us on a bird hunt. He tried valiantly to produce a Curlew for us, driving through all the most promising terrain, but not one could we locate. We did see White Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Forster's and Black Terns, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Gadwalls, Willets, Migrant Shrikes, Wilson's Phalaropes, Orchard Orioles, Upland Plovers, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and one Burrowing Owl; an imposing galaxy for a single afternoon — in fact, almost everything except that which we most wanted. We had almost given up when Mr. Krumm said, "There's one!" and we all jumped out to get our glasses focussed on this "fancy" bird. The Long-billed Curlew is larger than the Hudsonian Curlew we see on the Atlantic coast, and its long decurved bill is truly enormous. When flushed, the



ALFRED M. BAILEY

#### A Female Cinnamon Teal at its Nest

cinnamon wing-linings are visible and the bird on the wing is a lovely sight. Almost at once we saw another Curlew, and shortly afterwards a near-by rancher, knowing our quest, offered to lead us to a nest. There we flushed the female, and she put up a desperate and almost convincing "broken wing" act, making a great outcry all the while. Ruth photographed the nest and eggs while the parent bird circled wildly about.

At this refuge we saw and heard the first Eastern Meadowlark we had encountered in some time, and at one point we had this bird singing on one side of the road while on the opposite side of the car we could hear the Western Meadowlark.

As we were leaving the nesting site of the Curlew, Mr. Krumm asked casually if we would be interested in a Cinnamon Teal. He had found a pair of these birds, which are rare in the Dakotas, in a little cove of the refuge. We hadn't been at the cove more than two or three minutes when the pair of birds put out from the shore, apparently but mildly disturbed by our presence. They did not go very far, and we had ample opportunity to study and admire them. The drake is a gorgeous duck, and to see them at all on this trip was more than we had hoped for and was certainly more than we could have expected. This was indeed a fitting climax to another wonderful birding day on the prairies. From Lacreek Refuge we went on to Valentine, Nebraska, for the night.

*May 30.* Off to Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, five miles east of Valentine. While I was looking for the manager, the feminine contingent found two Bell's Vireos, new for the trip and also for all of us. This undistinguished-looking little vireo looks like a combination of the White-eyed and the Warbling Vireo but has a very emphatic and distinctive song, although



not especially musical. At this small refuge we also saw a herd of Elk, or Wapiti, a young Antelope, and seventeen Bison.

Leaving the refuge in the late morning, we started on our way to Omaha. During the rest of the day our roadside birding produced many interesting birds, among them twelve Orchard Orioles, twenty-two Western Kingbirds, eight Chats, a Long-billed Curlew, and Wilson's Phalaropes. From Norfolk, Nebraska, eastward, Dickcissels were numerous and their songs could be heard in all directions.

*May 31.* We crossed the Missouri River from Omaha to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where we found Dickcissels still abundant, as they were later in Missouri. Late that afternoon we counted forty-five Turkey Vultures going to roost. That night we stayed in St. Louis, so that we could be in East St. Louis (Illinois) next morning to visit Grand Marais State Park, which, according to Pettingill's eastern *Guide*, was the most likely spot in which to find the European Tree Sparrow.

*June 1.* We crossed the Mississippi River to East St. Louis and the park, where we felt we were getting back to more familiar eastern bird life, with Catbirds, Thrashers, and House Wrens, both cuckoos, and others. However, there was a distinctly southern touch, with a number of Mockingbirds, Cardinals, and many Bob-whites. We also saw several Bell's Vireos and Dickcissels there. After a considerable search at the proper place, we did see two of the European Tree Sparrows, not spectacular birds, looking much like our despised European House Sparrows except for the chocolate-colored crown and a dark spot behind the eye.

Leaving the park in the early afternoon, our birding was on the downgrade from then on. The Warbling Vireo and Dickcissel continued to be common across Illinois. We reached Richmond, Indiana, that night.

*June 2.* An uneventful day, marked principally by seeing our last Dickcissels just west of Englewood, Ohio. From Pettingill's eastern *Guide*, we learned that Bewick's Wren might be found near Morgantown, West Virginia, so we decided to spend our last night together near that place.

*June 3.* Up early and to Cheat Lake near Morgantown, but our searching failed to turn up the Bewick's Wren. We did, however, find the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Hooded, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers. It was then 8:30 A. M. and, in addition to the thirty miles already driven that day, we had another 550 miles to go, so with great reluctance we embarked on the last lap of our journey and reached Wilbraham, Massachusetts by ten o'clock that evening.

We cannot help expressing our deep appreciation of the many kindnesses shown us by those with whom we corresponded while planning our trip and those whom we actually met during the journey. Their help and advice contributed greatly both to our enjoyment and success. The refuge managers did everything possible to make our stays both pleasant and profitable. The same was true of the staff at the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, where Neil Reid, Chester Brooks, and their wives outdid themselves in our behalf, three strangers from the East. Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne and Mr. Verne Dockham were both very helpful with the Kirtland's Warbler. Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Gammel, of Kenmare, North Dakota, true to birding tradition, couldn't do enough for us.

Last, but far from least, Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., actually loaned us galley proofs of his *Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi* for the



States we planned to visit, inasmuch as the book was not due for publication for several months. We found this data and his similar eastern *Guide* of great assistance in planning our trip and at various places we visited. Not only do these two books serve as guides to the best birding places, but the introductory material at the beginning of each chapter provides a very helpful and interesting background for each region. We heartily recommend these two meaty volumes to anyone contemplating a birding trip such as ours or to any other part of the United States.

## The Swallows Are Remembered

BY YOSIOICHI INOUE



The Swallow Memorial

Togane presents a small lake, Hakkaku, where insects are to be found even in winter. The climate of Kyoto is comparatively cold, but there are to be found many insects flying about over the rivers in winter under some special conditions. So if a roost protects the swallows at night, they are able to stay. We have not yet found where these swallows spend their summer. But if we adopt banding, it should not be hard to discover.

Here I would like to tell you the story of the wintering swallows in Togane Town. The first visit of the wintering swallows was in October, 1950, the number of birds twenty-seven. In January, 1952, about twenty came. Getting help from the people in the town, Godo Nakanishi investigated them during four days from February 11. According to his investigation, their food consisted largely of insects such as mosquitoes, daddy-long-legs, rice insects, and flies which had been hatched in Lake Hakkaku or in its neighborhood. He obtained data on the daily temperature and moisture in Togane from the preceding autumn to that date. Further, he inquired about the extent of their flying in the daytime, the ages of all the swallows, their condition at the time of his visit, the temperature at night in their roosting place, and the actions of the swallows at roosting time. The results of the inquiry were reported by him at the 124th regular meeting of the Japan Ornithological Society on April 19, 1952.

The people of the town soon set up a society for the protection of the wintering swallows. Sukeichi Tomi, Director of the library of the town, and S. Goseki, Master of the roosting house, were the most active in carrying out the

Most of our swallows migrate to the south in winter, but some of them stay in Japan under special conditions. The following four districts in Japan have been known so far as the wintering places for swallows. (1) a small region by the Lake of Hamana, Shizuoka Prefecture; (2) a small area along the Katsura River; (3) the Kamo River, Kyoto; (4) Togane Town, Chiba Prefecture.

Among various conditions for wintering, temperature and food may be of primary importance. The climate of the Hamana district and of Togane is comparatively warm, and

aims of the society. They studied the swallows' food earnestly, especially on snowy days. Further, they increased the number of the overhead perching wires in the room, built a feeding stand, controlled overcurious sightseers, and protected the swallows from the menace of guns by designating their whole flying area as a sanctuary. But, unluckily, it snowed heavily on the seventh day of Mr. Nakanishi's investigation, and apparently only one swallow survived. Ten were discovered under the snow, but the other eight were not found at all. After seven days the dead body of a swallow was brought to Mr. Goseki's house by a cat. The cat put the woundless dead swallow on the floor of the kitchen and in exchange for it he carried away a fish, which had been saved for the master's meal. At this strange story of the swallow and the cat, Ichiro Ogawa, Vice-president of the Tourist Bureau of the town, was deeply moved. He made a coffin of stone and put the dead swallow in it and buried it in the garden of Honzen Temple on Lake Hakkaku. The tragic death of the swallow caused him to build a monument for the swallows to remind us forever of love of birds, which is the humanistic manifestation of our civilized people even in this dark war-brewing age, and Godo Nakanishi, who is a poet as well as a writer, was requested to write a poem for it.

The master of the roosting house is now over sixty years of age and unmarried. As his house stands on the roadside of a busy street, there have been many concessionaires who want to borrow it for a pleasure house, but he has never allowed the greedy men to come near, saying, "Who can take care of these poor swallows?" And he also says, "As long as the angels of Everlasting Summer are here with me, I am not lonely at all."

By the endeavor of all the persons concerned in the protection of the wintering swallows, and by the goodwill of the authorities of the town, the ceremony of building the monument and the memorial service for the dead swallows were performed on the same day, the chief priest of Honzen Temple officiating. Mr. Goseki dedicated his own poetry to the swallows, which, translated, reads, "Hark ye, the swallow, sleeping beneath the monument! If you had soul, you should protect your friends visiting this Town."

Mr. Nakanishi also contributed a poem, freely interpreted as, "The swallows, who had failed to follow their fellow-travelers to the south, found happily a favorable place, the town Togane, where they happened to meet the kind people and would have plentiful food supply, and they decided to spend their time there every winter."

The efforts of the people bearing fruit, happily enough more than ten swallows visited the town on December 3, three days after the ceremony. At first they perched in a line on the electric wire in front of Mr. Tomi's house in the morning, and then they flew about cheerfully over Lake Hakkaku. As numerous mosquitoes were seen from the lakeside houses on the day of the ceremony, the swallows would not need to be worried about getting their food.

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### Audubon Bust on Exhibition

The recent bust of Audubon by the New York sculptress Joy Buba, which attracted much attention at the Annual Meeting of the Society on January 23, will be on exhibit at the Childs Gallery, 169 Newbury Street, during the week of January 25, and at Audubon House the first two weeks of February.

## Thumbnail Sketches of Our Vice-Presidents



Although one of the more recently elected vice-presidents of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, E. ALEXANDER BERGSTROM, of West Hartford, Connecticut, has been constantly in touch with the program of the Society since his student days at Harvard in the late thirties and early forties. He received his A.B. *magna cum laude* from Harvard in 1939, his A.M. in 1940, and he attended the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1940 to 1942, where his work was primarily in history.

Restrained from war duty by an attack of polio — which, however, did not affect his college career — he went to Tucson, Arizona, to teach at the Southern Arizona School for Boys. After a brief period of teaching he returned to New England and has been associated for a number of years with the Aetna Casualty and Surety Company of Hartford, Connecticut, at present handling general liability and workmen's compensation and specializing in policy forms and endorsements.

As it sometimes happens with youthful bird watchers, a romance was started at the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine when Alex met Elizabeth Fuller Wasson, who shared his interest in birds, and they were married shortly after Elizabeth's graduation from Wellesley in 1943. They have four children, Nancy, Lucy, Anne, and Peter, all of whom can point out the birds on their two-acre home sanctuary, and the two older girls, ages seven and five respectively, enjoyed attending the bird-banding meeting held at Arcadia Sanctuary in the spring of 1953.

Mr. Bergstrom's general interest in nature as a boy was intensified by association with David L. Garrison, Curator of Birds at the New England Museum, in 1937, and his six years of activity with the Harvard Ornithological Club, during which time he also helped guide twenty-five Audubon trips to

Essex County. His intensive field work in Massachusetts, as well as birding trips to such areas as South Carolina and the coast of Texas, has more recently been limited by family duties, bird banding, writing, and setting up extensive plantings for birds around his home in West Hartford.

A member of about thirty organizations having to do with birds or natural history, including the Nuttall Club of Cambridge, the Linnaean Society of New York, and the British Ornithologists' Union, Mr. Bergstrom also finds time to serve on the Council of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association and is president of the very active Hartford Bird Study Club, which has 250 members, operates a small sanctuary, and conducts annually a successful public lecture series.

Mr. Bergstrom's interest in banding began in 1939 with Night Herons at Hobbs Brook Basin rookery in Waltham, which produced some excellent results and was followed by nine straight years of banding Bank Swallows at a colony in South Windsor, Connecticut. In the autumn of 1950 he succeeded the late James Lee Peters as editor of *Bird-Banding*, a very stimulating job, he admits, and one that keeps him in touch with bird banders all over the country, but one which makes a heavy demand on his time.

Cognizant of all phases of the Audubon program, Mr. Bergstrom has been especially interested in the Ipswich River Sanctuary, over whose trails he traveled in his search for birds in his student days, and in Arcadia Sanctuary at Northampton, where he is an encouragement to Director Ed Mason in his work and where he often visits to discuss with Ed their common interest in banding Evening Grosbeaks and other species.

C. RUSSELL MASON

### Sanctuary Notes for December

**COOK'S CANYON.** Very little feed was consumed at the Sanctuary in December, because the finches and grosbeaks didn't arrive to share the Christmas scene. A local Audubon member reports that our favorites, the Evening Grosbeaks, are lingering in Maine to feed on an unusually large crop of beech-nuts. When deep snow covers their natural food, we can expect these winter beauties to enliven the daily pageant at our window feeders. We are not alone in missing these regular visitors, the scarcity this year is widespread. We can be thankful, however, that their absence is due to environmental factors, not to a diminishing of the species.

Our Cook's Canyon Christmas tree for the birds has been host to seven species. At present its appearance would be enhanced by colder weather and a lacy design of snow. We measure its value, however, not by appearance or by the insignificant number of species among its visitors, but in terms of the experience it provided for the Barre fifth grade students, who actually decorated the tree with recommended food.

Did you know that this is slated to be a Snowy Owl year — that is, a year when many of these large white birds travel south beyond their normal range to find food? On November 30, our very efficient local Conservation Officer, Mr. Franklin Graves, was helpful in apprehending a resident of Paxton who shot a Snowy Owl.

The last week in December, Professor Chapman, of Princeton, had the pleasure of the visit of twenty-five Robins. Not usually found in Princeton in large numbers at this time of year, the Robins were feasting on the decaying apples under the trees in his orchard.

A light snow on New Year's Day forced a number of Juncos which had been feeding in the garden areas to seek their food within the range of our vision — at the feeders. We welcome them heartily into the inner circle. They are certainly less demure than the dainty Chickadees and Nuthatches.

We wish you, not only a peaceful and prosperous New Year, but one increasingly dedicated to the interests of conservation.

DAVID R. MINER

IPSWICH RIVER. With the year near its end and the unseasonable weather continuing, Bluebirds, Myrtle Warblers, and Juncos are flitting about in the sunlight of another mild day. Three days of low temperatures at the middle of the month froze solid the river meadows. Everything was brittle with the cold, and never do I feel more chilled than when looking at the shriveled leaves of the rhododendrons. It has been a month of beautiful sunsets.

South of the hilltop and across the field we are opening a wide vista toward the river meadows. We welcome volunteer workers on this project and hope that during the winter many will lend us a hand.

I always return from a pleasant winter's day ramble with increased cheerfulness and an inner happiness. It produces an invigorating effect on the mind. Get thee to the woods, but stop on your walk occasionally. Remain quiet, and when you are no longer a noisy intruder the absence of sound will be noticeable at first; but listen. A few twigs are rubbing together in a slight wind. The cheerful winter birds add a few notes here and there. A faint scratching sound is traceable to a Brown Creeper as he spirals around the trunk of a hop hornbeam; they are solitary little wood sprites. The gay little troubadours, the Chickadees, make an entrance and in the most engaging poses examine every twig and branch. A Downy Woodpecker appears and searches for minute larvae on a rotted limb. Soon another cheery sound, and a few little Golden-crowned Kinglets enliven the woods. The damp humus earth smells good. All about tiny creatures are in hibernation — asleep; all processes of life are slowed down, but yet they are warm and alive. The sun now is at its lowest for the year and so is the pulse of animal life. As we walk on, the silence is shattered by the whirring of the wings of a flushed Grouse.

For the first time I have heard the call of a Red-tailed Hawk. As he slowly circled and glided over the Bunker Meadows very low, he emitted a long-drawn squealing whistle, *kee-ahrr-r-r*, with the r's rattled out like a Kingfisher's rattle. It was the wildest call I have ever listened to and must have brought panic to the breast of every creature that heard it.

Regularly we have seen the most handsome fox — red and gray — undoubtedly a cross between the native Red Fox and the Southern Gray Fox that were released some years ago by a hunt club. I have reports of but two Deer shot this past season in Topsfield, and we anxiously watch for our doe and fawn.

Some several hundred acres of what has been of value as a buffer area to the Sanctuary has been purchased by a lumber company. The sawmill whines every day, and great white pines are being cut down. Again we are thankful that a bit of typical Essex County woodland is preserved at the Sanctuary.

For the sixteenth year we have had the pleasure, at our previous home and now at Bradstreet Farm House, of being host to those hardy souls that do the Christmas Bird Count. After a long day afield, good fellowship is enjoyed about



the open fires with warming cups of coffee and filling doughnuts. The compilation of the day's list by the various observers is always a highlight of the day. The report of a rare find evokes many oh's and ah's, and precise reports of "399" for a species are good for a laugh. A happy way to end the year's rewarding hobby of bird watching.

The census this year, on December 27, yielded but eighteen species for the Sanctuary. Richard Kleber and William Crawford, of the Museum of Science, put up a Virginia Rail, and in the early evening Ludlow Griscom added three Screech Owls, a Saw-whet, and a Long-eared to what had been slim picking.

With the wealth of introduced trees growing at the Sanctuary, I like to include each month a bit about a few of them. The catalogue of trees planted here lists some ninety-five species and varieties of oaks. We do not know how many have survived, but there are a goodly number to identify and study. The fastigate variety of the English oak, *Quercus robur fastigiata*, is a different-looking oak. Columnar in growth, not unlike a Lombardy poplar, it is one of the few varieties that come fairly true from sowing the acorns. Young trees with their persistent leaves look very pretty these winter months against a background of white pine. The Turkey oak, *Quercus cerris*, has unusually small leaves for an oak. It is native to southern Europe and western Asia. Don't forget that a good ornithologist should also be a botanist and several other kinds of an "ist" as well.

ELMER FOYE

ARCADIA. Plans for 1954 are the order of the day as we prepare for the busy spring months not so very far away. Actually, we accepted a gift of several hundred spruce trees for spring planting from Lee V. D. Schermerhorn, of Wilbraham, last fall. At that time it was far from certain that we would have the new Warnock land, but we did know just the place for those trees if we did succeed in acquiring the land. So now we have a place to put them, come spring. Ten to fifteen years later, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary will have a small spruce plantation, providing first-rate escape and roosting cover in a place where it is badly needed. Twenty years from now, somebody will probably be recording Crossbills and Siskins feeding on the cones of the spruces. We might even paraphrase that well-used quotation of Mark Twain and say, "If the bird you want to see isn't to be found here right now, wait a few years."

Two other small pieces of the Warnock land are not particularly suited to agriculture and therefore will be converted into wildlife areas. Inquiries are being made and plans roughed out on paper at this time, but it is not likely that all of this work will be accomplished in the spring of 1954. The conservationist's ideal is to have each and every acre used to the best possible advantage. That, of course, is why the acres of good land will continue to grow agricultural crops. It is also the reason for growing spruce trees in one little section and wildlife food and cover plants in others.

The appeal in the last number of the *Bulletin* for help in paying for the Warnock Farm land recently added to Arcadia, evidently caught the eye of not a few readers. During the past month \$198.25 was added to the fund. We still, however, have \$765 to raise. The Advisory Committee of Arcadia Sanctuary was hopeful that from three to five hundred dollars would be added to the fund in the form of small gifts of a dollar or two. The committee is most appreciative of the several large contributions which have been sent to the fund but would like to see many small gifts made, which would indicate the wide support for the Sanctuary they think it deserves.



Through the intervention of Miss Jean Campbell, of the Physical Education Department, Mr. King's maintenance men from Smith College filled with gravel two low places in the Bridle Trail so that the Smith students can enjoy the Trail in the springtime, even a wet springtime.

During December the director of Arcadia was called upon to speak before the Springfield Rotary Club on conservation leadership through the ages. He also was on the program of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its Boston convention in December, discussing, with the aid of the new Arcadia film, "The Role of a Wildlife Sanctuary in Conservation Education." Early in January, a feature on winter feeding of birds is to be given over the Springfield television station (Channel 61), on the program "Western Massachusetts Highlights" conducted by Tom Colton. These activities are an indication of the increased interest in natural resources conservation by community leaders and scientists, as well as in the non-destructive forms of outdoor recreation espoused and forwarded by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

The Christmas Census showed that Arcadia was still a refuge for some 250 Black Ducks, 21 Mallards, and a male Pintail. A Sparrow Hawk was observed, five Golden-crowned Kinglets were present, as was a lone Purple Finch and a single Song Sparrow. Davis Crompton noted that the small perching birds were fewer than usual, but it may be that they were merely more widely distributed because of the mildness of the season. Eighteen Evening Grosbeaks were reported at the Northampton feeding station of Jerome Watrous, but they have not found the Sanctuary feeders as yet. A White-throated Sparrow was recorded early in December but could not be found at the Christmas season. We shall look for Snow Buntings and Redpolls with the New Year.

EDWIN A. MASON

**MOOSE HILL.** If a somewhat smaller number of bird visitors than usual made their appearance at the Moose Hill feeders, it can doubtless be attributed to the extremely mild and snow-free character of the December weather. The continued unseasonable mildness caused much current comment, and the weather bureau records indicated that the first two and one-half weeks of December had an average daily temperature of ten degrees above normal. As the final days of the year bowed out, we still awaited a heavy snowfall to provide the first real test of local avian appetites.

Although always very wary of human approach, the overwintering flock of seven or eight Mourning Doves regularly made their early morning and late afternoon visits to the feeders. Whistling wings always proclaimed their hasty departure, whereas their arrival was generally less noticeable. If Purple Finches and Goldfinches were a little below average from the count of previous winters, it seemed safe to say that there was no observable diminution in the ranks of the almost ubiquitous Juncos about the Sanctuary. It appears that the latter are more abundant than usual, and their numbers seem a bit at odds with the absence of a wintry landscape. Most frequent visitors were the ever gay and spirited Chickadees, which never fail to provide the observer a welcome sight. Tree Sparrows were reported irregularly in small numbers. On several occasions Golden-crowned Kinglets were observed making inroads on the tasty peanut butter sticks. Ruffed Grouse were frequently flushed by trail hikers, but the absence of snow prompted few of them to wander up to the headquarters area, as is their winter custom.

From a Sharon Audubonite residing in the Post Office Square area came a credible report of a single Dickcissel at a window feeder. This mid-western erratic was observed in company with English Sparrows and is the second report of this species from the Sharon area in recent weeks.

Appropriately displayed in the Museum room during the past month were samples of the various conifers found on the Sanctuary's Evergreen Trail. The dozen varieties gave Moose Hill visitors a fair indication of what to look for on the trails by way of needle-bearing types and facilitated their recognition afield. Many of the pines, spruce, and hemlocks planted on Sanctuary grounds in past years have attained considerable stature and add much of interest to the older native evergreens and other trees.

On the evening of December 14 the Sanctuary was included in the itinerary of places visited by members of the Sharon Garden Club on their annual pre-Christmas tour. The displays of winter birds and feeders, the arrangements of evergreens, and the glowing warmth of logs in the Museum fireplace combined to make their call at Moose Hill a pleasant one.

Lotor, our amiable Raccoon, is still very much in evidence about the residence and a constant delight to visitors. If expansiveness of girth and thickness of fur are any prognosticators of winter weather, it would appear that the balance of the current season is to be long and severe. Lotor's self-selected sleeping quarters are in an empty box above the bird food shed, and there he retires early and seldom awakens before eleven o'clock. Although free to come and go at will, it seems unlikely that he will desert the hospitality (including meals) of the Sanctuary at any early date. We're wondering how his sensitive flat feet will like their first feel of freshly fallen snow.

ALBERT W. BUSSEWITZ

## "So Much For So Little"

### Anniversaries

February is anniversary month for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and we are now entering upon our fifty-ninth year as an educational organization dedicated to "the preservation and restoration of native birds and mammals and their environment," the oldest such organization in this country, and the largest State society.

These anniversaries bring to mind in a special way the debt we owe to the faithful members over the years who have made possible all that the Society has been able to accomplish. It was rewarding recently, in checking some of our old membership records, to discover that we have on our rolls at the present time 123 members who have held unbroken membership for forty years or more, and we can definitely account for 381 others whose membership has been continuous for twenty-five to forty years. We can think of no greater tribute to the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the cause it represents than the magnificent support given by these men and women of vision and purpose. We salute each one of these loyal friends, whose devotion brings fresh inspiration to us as we move forward to meet the opportunities that await us in the new year. We welcome the following new members recently enrolled.

#### Contributing Members

- \*\*Howe, Henry S., Canton
- \*\*Howe, Miss Lois Lilley, Cambridge
- \*\*McClelland, Miss Elizabeth, Cambridge
- \*\*Russell, Mrs. Mabel C., Wayland

- \*\*Valentine, Mrs. J. Alden, S. Walpole
- \*\*Wade, Mrs. Jephtha H., Bedford
- Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. George G.,  
New Britain, Conn.
- \*Wilcox, Roy C., Meriden, Conn.

**Supporting Members**

- \*Coolidge, John T., Milton
- \*Dakin, Miss Ida M., S. Weymouth
- Donovan, William A., Boxford
- \*Downs, Mrs. James R.,  
S. Londonderry, Vt.
- Drake, Francis E., Rye Beach, N. H.
- George, Miss Marcia E., Southborough
- Hallowell, Mrs. Roger H., Westwood
- \*Holmes, Mrs. Virginia, Woonsocket, R. I.
- \*Langley, Mrs. Herbert F., Randolph
- \*Loew, James B., Newtonville
- \*McMahon, Paul B., Dorchester
- \*Nash, Mrs. Susan H., Boston
- Shannon, Vernon F., Wrentham
- Stevens, Phillips, Jr., Easthampton
- \*Symonds, B. Shapleigh, Swampscott
- \*Teele, Miss Alice L., Methuen
- Thompson, Mrs. Wayne B., Winchester
- Webber, William S., Gloucester
- \*White, Mrs. Frank T., Brockton

**Active Members**

- Allen, Mrs. Carl, Deerfield
- Anderson, Miss Helen, Melrose
- Archer, Miss Ethel, Ipswich
- Avery, Miss Arline M., Amesbury
- Bailey, Mrs. David W., Cambridge
- Bearman, John A., Sharon
- Bellamy, Mrs. William A., Jr.,  
Brattleboro, Vt.
- Benedict, George W., Jr., Cohasset
- Bernard, Miss Katharine R.,  
Chathamport
- Black, Angus C., Jr., Saxtons River, Vt.
- Blake, Mrs. Benjamin S., Weston
- Blonder, Mrs. S., Chestnut Hill
- Bump, Mrs. Irene, Hingham
- Burke, Donald, Wellesley
- Cass, Warren, Sharon
- Chadwick, Mrs. Karl, Osterville
- Clark, Miss Ruth, Belmont
- Conklin, William P., Farmington, Conn.
- Cornier, Miss Marie E., Marblehead
- Criscitello, Mrs. Modestino, Pittsfield
- Cronin, Miss Rita, Brockton
- Dietz, Miss Gertrude, Brookline
- Drummond, Mrs. C. T., Salem, N. H.
- Easterbrooks, Mrs. Briggs A., Swansea
- Forbes, Robert G., Wellesley Hills
- Foss, Mrs. Philip F., Needham Hgts.
- Fox, Mrs. C. M., Syracuse, N. Y.
- Freedman, H. C., Waban
- Fuller, Alfred D. G., Wayland
- Gallagher, William F., Wellesley Hills
- Gassett, Mrs. Isabel H., Mount Dora, Fla.
- Gould, Miss Mildred, Adams
- Gurney, Mrs. Ansel F., Natick
- Hampton, Mrs. Malcolm W., Waltham
- Harrington, Miss Dorothy P., Milton
- Harrington, Henry W., Milton
- Havron, Mrs. J. Brock, Florence
- Hedge, Mrs. William R., Brookline
- Henry, Mrs. David D., Belmont
- Holcomb, H. Sherman, Beverly Farms

\*Transferred from Active Membership

\*\*Transferred from Supporting  
Membership

- Homert, Miss Elizabeth, E. Northfield
- Howes, Harold, Dennis
- Ibbotson, Mrs. Eva G., Pasadena, Cal.
- Jones, David M., Webster Groves, Mo.
- Jones, Henry C., Wilbraham
- Joslin, Mrs. Eric, W. Stockbridge
- Kalbfleisch, Miss Kathleen J.,  
Gt. Barrington
- Kelly, Mrs. Henry, E. Pepperell
- Kempton, Miss Rosalind, Boston
- Kendall, Lawrence S., Jr., Concord
- Kenney, Mrs. Harry H., Groton
- King, Richard B., M.D., W. Falmouth
- Kauch, Arthur S., Hopkinton
- Langley, Miss Ruth S., Newton Hlds.
- Lawrence, Mrs. Richard H., Fitchburg
- Liss, Herman, Cambridge
- Littlefield, Miss Eleanor, Cambridge
- Manchester, Donald, Jr., Osterville
- McGill, Miss Gertrude, Marblehead
- McNeece, Robert, Jr., Chatham
- Meymaris, Mrs. Marjorie H., Natick
- Michelson, Mrs. Morris, Brookline
- Milano, Mrs. M. J., N. Quincy
- Mixter, George, Boston
- Mountz, Mrs. Howard W., Garrett, Ind.
- Newman, Miss Anna, Needham
- Nystrom, Mrs. Alexander B.,  
Jamaica Plain

- Palczynski, Joseph E., Lynn
- Pease, Mrs. Brice, Berwick, Me.
- Porter, Cedric W., Jr., Wellesley Hills
- Pray, Miss Frances M., Boston
- Reed, Horace B., Newtonville
- Reutter, Julius, Chestnut Hill
- Robbins, Mrs. Chandler, II, Auburn, Me.
- Rooney, John H., Dedham
- Ropes, Miss Marian E., Northfield, Minn.
- Rothschild, Mrs. Felix, Cambridge
- Ryder, Alton H., Marion
- Saltonstall, William L., Manchester
- Sanford, Melvin A., Lynn
- Savory, Ernest J., Peabody
- Saylor, William R., Arlington
- Shattuck, Mrs. L. P., Pepperell
- Shaw, Mrs. B. Clark, Dedham
- Sherwood, Mrs. William, Waban
- Silberman, Mrs. Herman, Boston
- Simonds, Mrs. John H., Fitchburg
- Snow, Crocker, Ipswich
- Squier, Arthur H., Short Hills, N. J.
- Stucke, Elmer F., N. Abington
- Taylor, Charles H., Cambridge
- Thomas, Mrs. Howard C., Brookline
- Trask, Walter E., Melrose
- Trickey, Mrs. John, Durham, N. H.
- Twigg, Mrs. George, Needham
- Walker, Mrs. Samuel P., Westport, Conn.
- Walton, Russell R., Cambridge
- Ward, Charles L., Jr., Concord
- Whitaker, Mrs. Milton C.,  
North East, Md.

- Williams, Mrs. Roger, Jr., Canton
- Wilson, Mrs. Leslie D.,  
Wethersfield, Conn.

- Withington, Mrs. Lothrop, Brookline
- Yeich, Mrs. Doris H., E. Natick

### Christmas Counts Break Records

The combination of a mild early winter, which included the Bird Count days, and the large groups of keen observers resulted in a greater number of species being found in practically every region of New England than in previous years. This is well illustrated by the record of Dr. Stuart K. Harris, who, at Dummer, New Hampshire, at a temperature of five degrees below zero, uncovered 15 species and many individuals, including White-winged Crossbills, Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. This is in comparison with only 5 wintering species found in 1952.

Top-listing must again go to the Rhode Island Audubon Society, whose corps of observers found 131 species in the same area as last year, when they clocked 128. This was in Newport County, Rhode Island, and extended into Westport, Massachusetts.

The Cape Cod group, numbering 48 observers, worked, as usual, from Chatham as a center and made Wayside Inn their headquarters. An attempt was made to equal the Rhode Island count, but the group succeeded only in breaking all records for the Cape, with 118 species and 2 recognizable subspecies. Highlights included 46 Great Blue Herons; nearly 3300 Canada Geese; 600 Brant; 23 species of ducks, including 6 Wood Ducks; 7 species of hawks; 8 species of shore birds, including 12 Snipe and 64 Knots; 6 species of owls; 5 species of warblers, including nearly 2000 Myrtles and 4 Chats; 2 Common Terns; and 18 Seaside Sparrows.

The northeast coast of Massachusetts recorded high counts, with Cape Ann, completing the twentieth year of counts, breaking its previous record of 79 species with a total of 81, including four species new to the Cape Ann counts. The Newburyport region, competing with Cape Ann, made a total of 83 species, just slightly below their high of 85 in 1951. Single Baltimore Orioles were reported from both of these areas, to contrast with northern visitors like Snowy Owls, Snow Geese, Auks, Longspurs, and Snow Buntings. The Brookline Bird Club had a good day, December 26, when 28 members scoured the Marblehead-to-Lynn area and found 63 species, including a Bluebird — rare at this season on the North Shore — as well as a count of 220 American Mergansers, 76 Horned Grebes, and 153 Chickadees.

Further north, in coastal New Hampshire, Kimball Elkins reported 66, the best species count ever made, with the pattern of lingering stragglers much the same as in Massachusetts.

To the south of Boston, the South Shore Bird Club, with only 10 observers, equalled their last year's high record of 71 species, including the unusual find of 2 drake Shovellers and 4 Ruddy Turnstones. This group also estimated 25,000 Herring Gulls and 50,000 Starlings. For more than twenty-five years, Laurence B. Fletcher has led a census, largely on foot, in the Cohasset-North Scituate area. This year, with the Nathan Bateses and Everett Wheelwright, he turned up about the usual number of species, 32, including a good count of Purple Sandpipers and a Brown Creeper.

In Connecticut, the New London group, in their listing of 80 species, found some which must have astonished them, such as 3 Tree Swallows, 1 Gnatcatcher, and 175 Rusty Blackbirds. The Westport Audubon Society, with the Connecticut Audubon Society and the New Canaan Bird Protective Society co-operating, reports the biggest and best count to date, listing 108 species represented by 28,000 individuals. Their previous best, last year, was 100 species.

Naturally, not so many species are expected from inland points, and it was therefore satisfying to have Bartlett Hendricks report from Pittsfield the best count ever, 28, with a Dickcissel for the frosting of the cake. As in other areas, lakes and streams remained open, affording opportunity to find more waterfowl.

In the Greenfield area, Glenn Weeks and his fourteen field parties of 35 observers tallied their largest Christmas count ever, with 45 species and 5338 individuals. In addition to wintering seed eaters, which included 459 Goldfinches and 639 Tree Sparrows, a Mockingbird in South Deerfield and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Greenfield, both at feeding stations, were welcome observations for the day after Christmas.

The Philip Heywoods reported their usual luck in the Worcester region, limited to normal species found there in winter. Wellesley, with a group of high schoolers led by Douglas Sands and Emmett Cleveland, again reported 25 species discovered in a thorough and well-planned coverage of the town. The list included 1 Pine Grosbeak and 1 Hooded Merganser. Belmont had 39 species, one above last year. The Children's Museum, with Miss Miriam Dickey as leader, covered their usual course from Jamaica and Leverett Ponds to the Arnold Arboretum, the Sargent Estate, and Muddy River, and they were fortunate enough to find 35 species, including many interesting ducks and 7 American Coot, also a male Cowbird at a feeding station.

Other counts were made in the State, but reports were not received up to the time of writing. Watch the "Field Notes" in the March *Bulletin* for the total count of species for all the counts made in Massachusetts. We believe this should be particularly interesting because of the mild season and the excellent coverage.

C. RUSSELL MASON

### Brookline Bird Club Trips

#### Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

February 6, all day. Rockport and Cape Ann. Mr. Beattie, ELiot 4-6592. Afternoon, Arboretum to Leverett Pond. Miss Wollaston, BLuehills 8-2750.

February 13, all day. Automobile trip to South Shore. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741. Afternoon, Spy Pond and Mystic Lakes. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.

February 20, all day. Newburyport. Afternoon, Nahant. Possible week end trip.

February 22, all day. Cape Ann.

February 27, all day. Ipswich-Boxford area. Afternoon, Spy Pond.

March 6, all day. Devereux to West Peabody.

March 7, afternoon. Nahant. Mrs. Boot, LYnn 8-0257.

Further information on trips from February 20 to March 6 will be available after February 15 at Audubon House, KENmore 6-4895.

## Nature Bent?

### Enroll in Spring Courses at Audubon House

To meet a growing demand for adult courses in nature study, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is offering the following spring courses at Audubon House. These courses will be conducted by Miss Frances Sherburne, of the Audubon educational staff. As enrollment will be limited, early registration is urged.

#### I. THE THREE KINGDOMS: An Introduction to Nature Study

Especially designed for outdoor enthusiasts who are seeking an introduction to nature study, this course will offer basic class and field instruction in spore-bearing plants, conifers, flowers, marine life, reptiles, insects, and mammals. During migration special attention will be given to birds.



The course will be developed through emphasis on relationships between living things and the soil, water, air, and minerals which support them, as well as through the specifics of identification. Teachers, youth leaders, and hobbyists will find much useful, basic information presented in an interesting manner.

*Morning Course:* Tuesdays, March 16 to May 18, 10:00 to 11:30. March meetings at Audubon House. April and May meetings will be field trips. Fee, \$8.50.

*Evening Course:* Tuesdays, April 6 to May 18, 7:30 to 9:00. Seven meetings at Audubon House. Three Saturday field trips. Fee, \$8.50.

## II. THE WEB OF LIFE: Intermediate Natural Science

This course is primarily for those who have had the introductory course in nature study or have some knowledge of nature and wish to do further work in definite areas. The topics dealt with in the beginning course will be considered on a more specific level. Individual projects, techniques in nature education and in leading field trips, and experience in field identification will be stressed.

*Thursday evenings,* April 8 to May 20, 7:30 to 9:00, at Audubon House. Seven meetings and three Saturday field trips. Fee, \$8.50.

## LOOKING AHEAD: SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

### MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE

#### Boston Malacological Club

Feb. 2, 8:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Conservation Council

Feb. 3, 2:00 P.M.

#### Massachusetts Audubon Society

Feb. 5, Staff Meeting, 9:30 A.M.

Feb. 10, Board of Directors, 3:00 P.M.

#### Old Colony Bird Club

Feb. 8, 22, 7:30 P.M.

### MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, STAFF LECTURES

Feb. 1, Osterville Garden Club, Osterville

Feb. 2, Worcester Bird Course, Worcester

Feb. 3, Park School, Brookline

Feb. 8, Concord Woman's Club, Concord

Feb. 9, Hartford Bird Study Club, Hartford, Conn.

Feb. 11, Cochituate Garden Club, Cochituate

Feb. 18, Melrose Women's Club

Feb. 23, Dorchester Women's Club

### AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS

Feb. 14, To Newburyport and Cape Ann. Leave Audubon House, 8:15 A.M.

Mar. 28, To Sudbury Valley. Leave Audubon House, 8:15 A.M.

### ADULT WORKSHOPS

#### IN NATURAL SCIENCE

Mar. 16, 23, 30. "The Three Kingdoms." Morning Course. Introduction to Nature Study. Audubon House, 10:00 to 11:30 A.M., Miss Frances Sherburne, leader.

### AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE

Feb. 9. "Atlantic Adventures." Hal H. Harrison. Northampton High School, 7:30 P.M.

Feb. 12. "Atlantic Adventures." Hal H. Harrison. Beverly High School, 7:30 P.M.

Feb. 13. "Atlantic Adventures." Hal H. Harrison. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Feb. 18. "Wild America." Roger Tory Peterson. Sage Hall, Smith College, Northampton, 8:00 P.M.

Feb. 19. "Wild America." Roger Tory Peterson. Horticultural Hall, Worcester, 8:00 P.M.

Feb. 20. "Wild America." Roger Tory Peterson. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Mar. 11. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. Sage Hall, Smith College, 8:00 P.M.

Mar. 12. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. Beverly High School, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 13. "Western Discovery." Laurel Reynolds. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Mar. 20. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. New England Mutual Hall, Boston, 10:30 A.M.

Mar. 23. "The Grass Forest." Robert Hermes. Northampton High School, 7:30 P.M.

Mar. 25. "Bonaventure Diary." Robert Hermes. Horticultural Hall, Worcester, 8:00 P.M.

### BOSTON FLOWER SHOW. Visit the Audubon Booth.

Mar. 14-20. Mechanics Hall.



## A Vermont Birder Goes South

BY WENDELL P. SMITH

I left Newbury, Vermont, on September 18 for my new home in North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. I like it here, for there is much in common with Vermont. The town is eleven hundred feet above sea level and about twenty miles east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It is well-forested but most of the timber near by has been removed. There are a few large fields like the Connecticut River meadows in Newbury, but the Yadkin and Reddie's Rivers are small here.

I have a list of 103 species since coming here, and my first birding was done on September 21. Almost the first bird seen was a Cape May Warbler. One common species at Newbury which I have not seen since leaving is the Black-throated Green Warbler, but Bent's *Life Histories* says that it is rare east of the Appalachians, I believe.

I have become acquainted with two men in Elkin who go afield, and they say that I have already made some good records. They told me that Woodcock were rarely here and I have not seen any good habitat, but a small boy showed me one this week that a hunter had given him. There is practically no marsh; no ponds of any size, and the rivers are mountain streams for the most part. The municipal reservoir, on Reddie's River, provides quiet water, and there I have seen Pied-billed and Horned Grebes, Black, Wood, and Ruddy Ducks, and a Green Heron. I saw both water-thrushes, all the vireos but the Yellow-throated, numbers of Olive-backed Thrushes, and most of the warblers I was seeing in Newbury before I left. The only new warbler was the Prairie.

Cardinals are very common and Mockingbirds fairly so. Carolina Chickadees are more numerous than Black-caps in Newbury. Tufted Titmice are common and quite a novelty. Carolina Wrens are everywhere and vocal. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows arrived about the middle of October and sang, and the White-throats are still here to a limited extent. Ruby-crowned Kinglets came at about the same time and were vocal, all three of these species singing more often than in Newbury in the fall.

Hermit Thrushes have been coming through but are silent except for call notes. Bob-whites and Mourning Doves are here; I saw a flock of twenty-five of the former and one of thirty of the latter, but usually they are in much smaller numbers.

Right here in town a sanctuary — plenty of trees and shrubs — brings a lot of birds. Nashville, Tennessee, Parula, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Oven-bird, Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes, Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, and Philadelphia Vireo came past our windows. Hundreds of Chimney Swifts passed during the first week of October, and I saw a lone Nighthawk about October 20.

I have seen but one Turkey Vulture here and am informed that they were destroyed by farmers because they were accused of spreading disease to hogs. Hawks are rather scarce, I presume because poultry raising is a major industry. I have told the truth about them on some radio talks I was asked to give and in school talks. I was also asked to broadcast on extinct birds, which gave me an excellent opportunity to emphasize conservation, and I improved it.

At times I have appeared to be under local and State police surveillance but have never been questioned by them. I was questioned at length by what may be the top man in the moonshine fraternity. He has served two terms in the Federal penitentiary but is quite well off financially. I guess that I must have a very harmless look, for everyone seems to be satisfied that I endanger no one's safety. My walks have taken me near running water in lonesome places and I may have been nearer some still than I realized. I am careful not to follow any paths up brooks but keep to traveled highways.

I am looking forward to next spring and some new warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Acadian Flycatcher, and so forth. The vice-president of one of the banks is an enthusiastic fisherman and orchid hunter and has promised to take me with him when I can do some birding in the mountains. The spring flowers will be gorgeous and I am already in love with the country.

### News of Bird Clubs

The FORBUSH BIRD CLUB of Worcester is co-sponsor with the Massachusetts Audubon Society in presenting Roger Tory Peterson with his brilliant color film "Wild America" as the feature of the Sinclair Bird Festival, at Horticultural Hall, Worcester, on Friday evening, February 19, at eight o'clock.

On Tuesday evening, February 9, the HARTFORD BIRD STUDY CLUB will enjoy a showing of "Audubon's America," with comment by C. Russell Mason. On February 23, the club will hear E. Alexander Bergstrom on "Long Term Climatic Changes." An all-day trip to the shore is scheduled for February 22.

A meeting of the WATERBURY NATURALIST CLUB will feature, on February 2, Arthur Ceder, Superintendent of the White Memorial Foundation of Litchfield, who will present an account of the work of the foundation. On February 16, there will be a winter social meeting which will include reports by members on various trips and activities. On March 2, Miss Elenore Klimm, of West Hartford, will tell about a recent trip to New Zealand.

On February 1, the ALLEN BIRD CLUB of Springfield will hear Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Hyde in an illustrated talk entitled, "A Trip Around the Gaspe." On February 13, the club has scheduled a field trip which will include Arcadia Sanctuary, Amherst, and Norwich Hill Road, led by Mr. and Mrs. H. Arthur Avery. On March 2, Fran William Hall will present "South to Siesta Land," a National Audubon screen tour.

"Identification of Birds in Flight" will be the topic considered in a Discussion Panel at the March 2 meeting of the HOFFMANN BIRD CLUB of Pittsfield.

At the regular meeting of the STANTON BIRD CLUB of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine, on March 1, the speakers will be Professor and Mrs. George E. Ramsdell and Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Eastman, and the subject discussed will be "Migration: Why, When, and Where, as Practiced by Birds, Mammals, Insects, and Fishes."

### Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

#### Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Feb. 3-28. Exhibition of paintings of Old Connecticut Houses, by Peter F. Ludorf.

Feb. 3-28. Exhibition of Fine Prints. Lent by Robert B. Appleton.

Feb. 5, 8 p.m. Annual Winter Members' Night.

Feb. 8, 8 p.m. "Atlantic Adventure" by Hal Harrison.

Sponsored by the Hoffmann Bird Club

Feb. 10, 8 p.m. Camera Club — Informal talk by William Tague.

Feb. 11, 3 p.m. Back Yard Bird Watching course.

Feb. 14, 2 p.m. Musical Talent in our Schools.

Feb. 18, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "Harvey."

Feb. 19, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "Harvey."

Feb. 20, 8:15 p.m. Town Players, "Harvey."

Feb. 21, 2 p.m. Musical Talent in our Schools.

Feb. 25, 8 p.m. Riggs Clinic Meeting, with film "The Quiet One."

Feb. 26, 8 p.m. Camera Club — Color Slide Show by Members.

Feb. 28, 2 p.m. Musical Talent in our Schools.

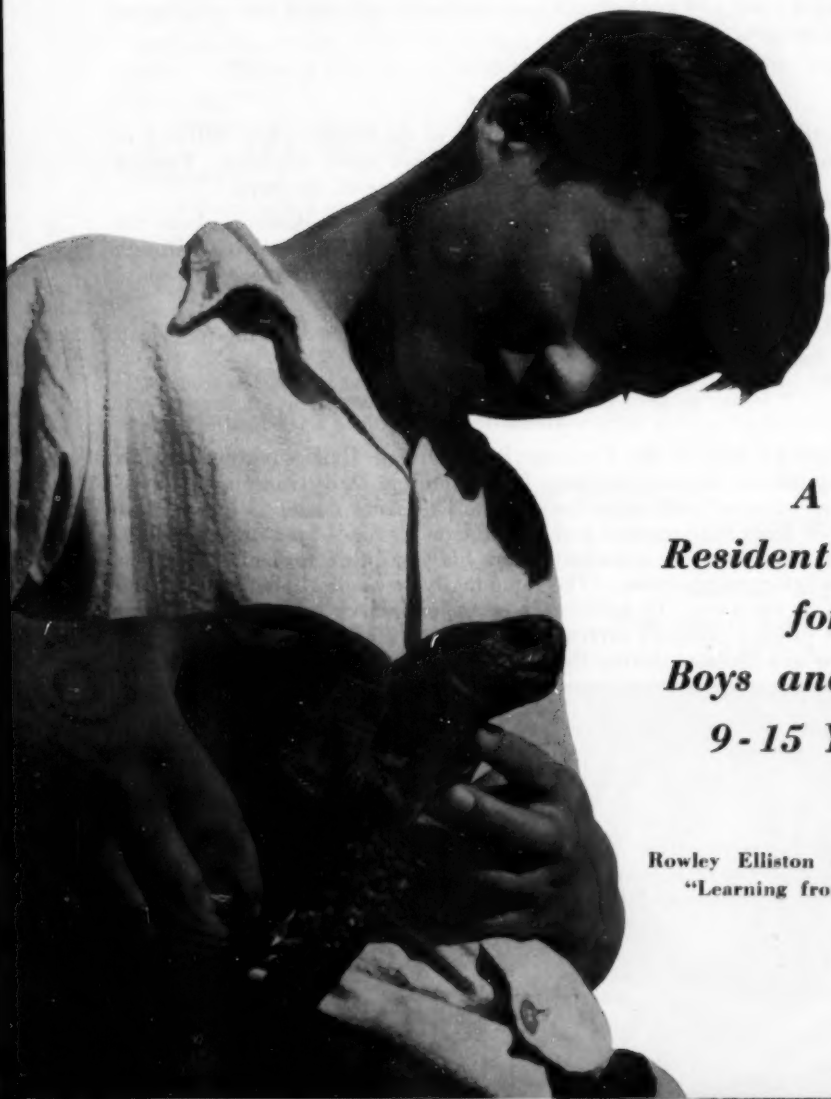
**1954**

**WILDWOOD NATURE CAMP**

**Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Barre, Massachusetts**

*Owned and Operated by the Massachusetts Audubon Society*



**A  
Resident Camp  
for  
Boys and Girls  
9-15 Years**

**Rowley Elliston — Wildwood 1953**  
**"Learning from living things"**



**"Fun with collections"**  
**Austie Smith — Wildwood 1953**

variety of plant cover and interesting terrain make the area ideal for encouraging interest in nature.

### ***Location***

Wildwood Camp is located at the Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary in Barre, Massachusetts. Barre is between Athol and Worcester at the junction of Routes 122, 62, and 32. The camp is reached by following South Street from the Barre Common.

Cook's Canyon has 40 acres of meadow and woodland with a pond and gorge. Maintained all the year as a wildlife sanctuary, the area is attractive to many birds and other wildlife native to the region. A variety of plant cover and interesting terrain make the area ideal for encouraging interest in nature.

### ***Facilities***

Comfortable dormitory space is provided in the headquarters building of the sanctuary, with electricity and continuous hot water available. Floored tents that house four campers each are used by some of the boys.

Indoor activities center in the Grace Dickinson Workshop, where the small live museum and library are maintained. The Florence Read Dining Hall also serves as an activity center with its large stone fireplace and space available for square dancing.

Wildwood is operated in accordance with camp standards of the American Camping Association.

### ***Health***

The new kitchen in the Florence Read Dining Hall is equipped with modern equipment to insure sanitary food handling. A dietitian is employed to plan well-balanced and attractive meals. The camp doctor is located less than a block from headquarters and available at all times for campers' needs. Each child must have an examination by his family doctor not more than seven days before camp opens. (The camp mails the medical blanks to parents two weeks in advance.) In addition, a superficial check is made by a nurse on the day of each camper's arrival. The children are carefully observed and checked for any illnesses during their stay at camp, and the camp program is developed with consideration for rest requirements.

Insurance on each child is provided for sickness or accidents originating during the camping period.

### ***Equipment***

No uniform is required. The campers wear comfortable, informal, outdoor clothes. A list of suggested items for including in the camp trunk will be forwarded to registrants.

*all photos by Gordon Hicks*

### ***Program***

All aspects of natural science are program material. The schedule is so arranged as to provide a great deal of choice and allow a maximum development of the individual interests. The morning session each day offers a choice of one of two or three topics, in fields such as birds, insects, minerals, mammals, stars, trees, soil, water, mosses and ferns, flowering plants. These topics are approached through field trips, games, exploration, nature trails, and use of live materials.

The afternoon period is devoted to arts and crafts and individual projects. The campers have a choice each day of seven or eight activities, ranging from ceramics, painting, textile painting, carpentry, photography, sanctuary projects, identification and arranging of collections, care of wild pets, bird banding, and other items as varied as the interests of the campers demand.

The evening program is usually group activities, such as folk and square dancing, singing, nature films, and talent programs planned by the campers.

Overnight camping trips are scheduled regularly and a "Buffalo Roast" is one of the Wildwood traditions at these camp-outs. Other trips are taken to Quabbin Reservoir, Harvard Forest, Arcadia Sanctuary in Northampton, home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babbitt in Petersham, and other areas of natural interest.

Swimming facilities are available in near-by South Barre, and the campers are taken for a swim four or five times a week, according to weather and program.

Assistance is given to those who wish to work on merit badges in scouting.

### ***Arrangements***

Session 1	July 4 - 17	9 - 15 years of age*
Session 2	July 18 - 31	11 - 15 years of age
Session 3	August 1 - 14	11 - 15 years of age

\*All boys and girls under 11 years of age will be enrolled in Session 1. Ages 11-15 will be accepted for this session if enrolled for the entire camping period of six weeks. Programs during Session 1 will be planned for different age groups.

One session \$100.00

Two sessions \$200.00

Three sessions \$300.00

**Afternoon finger painting**

**Page Garrity and Betty Ann Bussewitz  
Wildwood — 1953**

### ***Inquiries***

For further information, mail the request blank on the back of this folder. You will receive a registration blank and the names of parents who will discuss Wildwood with you from their experience in previous years.

Address your questions and inquiries to Mrs. Mary Lela Grimes, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16, Massachusetts.



## ***Staff***

### ***Director:***

C. Russell Mason, Executive Director, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

### ***Associate Director:***

Mrs. Mary Lela Grimes, Director of Public Relations, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

### ***Program Co-ordinator:***

Miss Rachel Bruce, Associate Professor, Elementary Science Education, Fitchburg State Teachers College.

### ***Additional Staff:***

David R. Miner, Director, Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary

William V. Grimes, Jr.

Mary Alice Carrolan

John Gates

Susan Loring

## ***Visiting Staff***

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Babbitt, Petersham. Reptiles and Amphibians.

Leslie Campbell, Quabbin Reservoir. Photography; water resources.

Lawrence V. Loy, Extension Specialist in Community Organization and Recreation, University of Massachusetts. Square and Folk Dancing.

Reno Raffanoli, Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation.

Dr. Hugh Raup, Director, Harvard Forest. Forestry.

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TO MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

### ***WILDWOOD CAMP***

155 Newbury Street

Boston 16, Massachusetts

Please send an application blank to:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... STATE .....



## From the Editors' Sanctum

February, 1954

### An Innovation in Our Audubon Field Trips



WILLIAM B. LONG

I have been reading Edwin Way Teale's latest book, *The Circle of the Seasons*, and in this "Journal of a Naturalist's Year" he writes, under date of November 1, some paragraphs which are especially appropriate in connection with the "innovation" we are planning for future Field Trips:—

"It occurred to me today that an interest in nature leads you into a kind of enchanted labyrinth. You wander from corridor to corridor; one interest leads to another interest; one discovery to another discovery. It matters little where you begin. You may first fall under the spell of birds or wild flowers or you may become curious about lichens or grasshoppers or trees or rocks or fossils or waterweeds. If you have any inquisitiveness at all, you soon find yourself branching off, wandering enchanted down charming bypaths. . . .

"We cannot watch sandpipers, following receding waves and stabbing at the wet sand for food, without soon wondering what they are eating. And that leads us into another of nature's innumerable corridors. All living things are linked together in various ways — by predator chains and food chains, parasitism and symbiosis. Nothing lives to itself alone. Nothing is disassociated from its surroundings. An interest in tadpoles sooner or later leads to an interest in the dytiscus beetle that preys upon them. The study of hognosed snakes inevitably leads to the study of toads upon which they feed. Even if your special interest is catbirds, you are led to a consideration of the life of the deer mouse. For these mice often appropriate the nests of catbirds as their winter homes. Everywhere we turn in nature, new and interesting corridors appear before us, waiting to be explored. All are interconnecting. They lead us as far as we care to go."

The field trips conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society are primarily in search of *birds*, and often some especial bird may be the major target of the excursion, but if we are looking for nothing but birds we are missing a great many interesting possibilities. The birds may fly away before we find them, but the trip should not be rated as time lost for that reason. So we are

planning for our future trips, not only leaders who know where to look for birds and how to identify them, but other leaders who can tell us something of the geology, the botany, the marine life, and the invertebrates which we may encounter on these "bird trips" in our familiar Massachusetts countryside with its richly varied terrain.

What are some of the things we might find on such an excursion?

Will you join me for a brief birding trip on the Massachusetts South Shore? We choose for this outing "The Glades," approached from North Scituate, and jutting out toward historic Minot's Light between Cohasset and Scituate. Similar formations may be found at Cape Ann, Marblehead, and Nahant. In the spring there are sometimes interesting waves of migrants passing through; in late summer flocks of shore birds gather, and later strings of Scoters pass offshore; in winter we look for Loons, Cormorants, Gulls, Alcids.

But if birds are scarce, what is there to repay such a journey? "The Glades" is a rocky headland, undoubtedly an island in early postglacial times. A barrier beach has since formed, connecting it with a low grassy area now largely covered with summer cottages. The granite shores of The Glades and the outlying islets are a coarse granitic rock, which the geologists say was exposed by the erosion of about a mile thickness of sedimentary deposits, no trace of which remains here today. At one point we can have a most intriguing lesson in local geology, where recent storms have washed away some of the soil from above ordinary high-water mark. Here the newly exposed granite is a coarsely crystalline pink rock, smoothed by the glacier but showing plainly long parallel scratches made by ice-borne boulders pushed irresistibly by the progress of the moving ice mass. Where the rock has been exposed to the elements for a longer time, weathering has eliminated the scratches and roughened the surface. Farther out toward low-water mark, the chemicals in the sea water have changed the color of the granite to a dark purplish shade. Cutting through the older granite are bands, or "dikes," of a dark grayish material, which Captain John Smith, when he sailed into Cohasset Harbor (or Konohasset, as he called it) in pre-Pilgrim days, thought were beds of coal. Some of these dikes are harder than the granite and, resisting erosion, stand out as low ridges, others are of softer material and have been worn away into narrow "chasms," like Rafe's Chasm at Magnolia. These dikes were formed during a period of volcanic activity, when the granite was cracked and lava flowed into the crevices and hardened slowly. At places fragments of the granite were surrounded by the soft molten material and may be seen today imbedded in the gray dike. The modified crystallization around the dikes indicates the great heat involved.

But before we reach this point, the botanic features of The Glades should interest us. Low oaks, slow growing in this windy location; scraggly distorted red cedars; impenetrable thickets of cat brier; poison ivy growing like a bush rather than a clinging vine; perhaps most interesting among the woody plants, scattered specimens of the southern holly, *Ilex opaca*, here probably at its farthest northeastern native habitat. Between the indentations of the granite shore line are fingers of salt marsh, and on the Cohasset side wide expanses, with typical vegetation of coarse grasses and sedges, sea lavender, salt-marsh-bush, and patches of samphire, subject to frequent inundation by storms and high tides. Above the beaches of coarse sand and rounded pebbles are beach grass, seaside goldenrod, and a few other plants which have adapted themselves to the thin soil and the salt breezes which sweep across all open spaces. And each area has its distinctive animal life, birds, small mammals, and other forms.

And when the tide is low an entirely new and different world is opened before us in the tidal pools, with their sea anemones, starfish, and sea urchins, and at the water's edge, where the band of barnacles on the rocks and the still lower rockweed association are rich in molluscan and other invertebrate life.

And we haven't mentioned the cloud formations and their meanings, or several other question-causing things which we may see. Overhead gulls are sailing and screaming, offshore a few Golden-eyes and Red-breasted Mergansers are fishing, Common and Red-throated Loons are preening themselves after their long submersions, but where are the Alcids for which we were looking? One lone Black Guillemot, gray and white in its winter plumage, showing briefly its red feet as it upends, then disappears under water. But who cares? After all, seeing Alcids was just our tentative destination, but the journey itself has been, I trust, "a pleasant pilgrimage."

J. B. M.

## Hoffmann Members Visit Hawk Mountain

BY ALVAH W. SANBORN



MAURICE BROWN

An enthusiastic group of Hoffmann Bird Club members from Pittsfield, four adults and five juniors, visited Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania over the last week end of October into November. (Incidentally, all five of the junior members were members of the Pleasant Valley Explorers Club last summer.) All of us were counting the days until Friday, October 30. For me this trip was exciting, not only because it was my first trip to Hawk Mountain, but because I looked forward to becoming better acquainted with Maurice Broun, who was the first director here at Pleasant Valley. We had met at a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union several years ago, but this would be an opportunity to see him on his home ground — Hawk

Mountain — of which I had heard so much.

Up to the time of our departure the prospects of our seeing any hawks had seemed very poor indeed. Maurice had written me several notes warning that the dull warm weather had meant very poor flights through much of the fall. The responsibility of leading an expedition with such an element of uncertainty weighed heavily on my mind, but, fortunately, just before the day of departure there came a change in the weather with a two-day rain. In fact, the skies were clearing as we left on Friday morning, and according to the books this was just the thing we needed. We might yet see a good flight over Hawk Mountain. The trip down was a pleasant surprise, for the roads were much better than I had expected. When we arrived at four o'clock, we found that the other car in our party had made an early start and arrived several hours ahead of us. Nothing daunted by the rays of the setting sun, my crew scampered up the mountainside like so many mountain goats and arrived at the summit just in time to see our first Golden Eagle slowly and majestically circling over the rocky promontory. Later, Maurice Broun said we were extremely fortunate, for on the average he thought a visitor might go up as many as six times before seeing this eagle. We found that the people in the other car had already seen several Golden Eagles and over a hundred Red-tailed Hawks — total Red-tails for the day was 222. We also saw a few Red-tails before the failing light sent us back down to headquarters with Maurice Broun, who showed us to our lean-to and fireplace. After dinner I walked over and had a visit with Maurice and his friendly wife Irma. It was fun to hear about the early days of Pleasant Valley from the man who was there at the start, who laid out our Nature Trail and several others, and who began our museum collection.

It is hardly necessary to state that we were up early the next morning. As we were eating breakfast, we heard a Tufted Titmouse by Maurice's cottage. It took some hard digging to turn it up, but we also saw a Cardinal and a Pileated Woodpecker. At 9:15, on arriving at the "Lookout" of Hawk Mountain, we found that Maurice and some few others had beaten us to it. Already the morning flight had begun. The boulder-strewn top of the mountain comes to a point like the prow of a ship, and the captain of this ship is Maurice Broun, who moved between the rocky "bridge" and his telephone, which is rather far forward. Like the captain of a ship, he was in full command, for he called the birds from distances that made us gasp, but the birds were readily enough checked as they came closer and closer. I never saw him hesitate, and several times he had to correct the errors of some seasoned birders. Out to the northward is a descending row of hills stretching part way across the horizon. Starting at the right, they are numbered one, two, three and four. When anyone spots a hawk he calls out, "Red-tail over three," or "Shoulder over one." These hawk spotters have an abbreviated lingo of their own — Sharpies, Shoulders, Tails, etc. The hawks often passed very near the top of the mountain, sometimes at eye level and sometimes below it. The identity of the hawks was thus easily checked if any doubts lingered.

By 10:30 in the morning we had already seen a large number of Red-tails, some Red-shouldered Hawks, a Golden Eagle, several Marsh Hawks, and two Snow Buntings. While we were watching this winged procession the number of watchers had been steadily and rapidly increasing (by the end of the day the more than three hundred persons to reach the summit exceeded the number of hawks to pass in the adjacent skies). If I was surprised to see so many people there, I wonder what the hawks thought to see a multitude of humans sitting on the rocks, dressed in every conceivable color and all aiming one or two large glass disks at them. If they thought anything, they passed by without hesitation. Between hawks, as it were, we had time to see that we were among friends, for Dee Snyder arrived with Frances Elkins. Then Phyllis Kitchin came in view over the rocks. Joseph Cadbury, of Audubon Camp fame, was there, and many others.

As noon approached, the flight began to slow down enough so that we had the ears to overhear that an Avocet had been seen at Ontelaunee Reservoir. Maurice gave us exact directions but warned us to be back at 2:30 or we might miss the renewed hawk flight. Lady Luck was with those of us who decided to go to this reservoir, which is so near Hawk Mountain. As we approached, we saw hundreds of ducks, mostly Blacks, and literally thousands of Crows. Some were wheeling and settling in the pine plantations on the opposite shore, others were feeding, and a number were bathing in the shallow waters of a little island where the Avocet was supposed to be. At first we didn't see it, but at last it flew from wherever it had been, and then its striking wing pattern showed off to good advantage. We were surprised to see it land on the water and swim around more or less like a duck. Several times Crows pestered it, causing it to fly about. We were further rewarded for this venture by seeing two Blue Geese and one Snow Goose, and just as we were leaving an adult Bald Eagle circled overhead and at such length that we were able to put the scope on him.

On our return we found that we had not missed much, for the wind had veered and there were few hawks in sight. That night we had a sumptuous Pennsylvania Dutch dinner at the famous Shartlesville Inn.

Sunday the flights continued dull, with the wind in the wrong quarter. Our circle of acquaintances was enlarged with the arrival of Bob Wood and

Rod Sommers. Our time and our luck ran out together, and noon and departure-time arrived. But our luck had been better than good, for we had seen several hundred individuals of eight species of hawks (including a partial albino Red-tail) and both of the eagles, as well as many other species we hadn't dreamed of seeing when we set out. Maurice had been the perfect host and guide.

### New Audubon Staff Member



A recent addition to the public relations department at Audubon House, and particularly responsible for telephone information, is Miss SUSAN G. LORING, of Prides Crossing, whose interest in conservation was keenly aroused while employed as a secretary for the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association.

A graduate of the Winsor School and Vassar College, Miss Loring taught school for a year and later became secretary to an archeologist at the Peabody Museum at Harvard. She is interested in music, particularly in singing, and is at present secretary of the board of the Boston Music School, a community fund member. She has also been a solicitor for the Community Fund and for the Red Cross, has served as a Gray Lady, and for one summer was counselor at a settlement house camp. Outdoors and nature are major interests, and she especially enjoys gardening, sailing, and skiing. In a six weeks' tour in Europe, when she visited France, Switzerland, and Great Britain, the highlight of the trip was a week of bicycling in the wild and beautiful Scottish Highlands.

## AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE

February, 1954

HAL H. HARRISON "ATLANTIC ADVENTURES"

Attleboro High School Auditorium, Attleboro, Mass.,

Fri., Feb. 5, 7:30 P.M.

New Bedford High School Auditorium, New Bedford, Mass.,

Sat., Feb. 6, 10:00 A.M.

Northampton High School Auditorium, Northampton, Mass.,

Tue., Feb. 9, 7:30 P.M.

Leominster Elementary School, Leominster, Mass.,

Wed., Feb. 10, 2:30 P.M.

Newburyport High School Auditorium, Newburyport, Mass.,

Thur., Feb. 11, 3:30 P.M.

Beverly High School Auditorium, Beverly, Mass.,

Fri., Feb. 12, 7:30 P.M.

New England Mutual Hall, Boston, Mass., Sat., Feb. 13, 10:30 A.M.

ROGER TORY PETERSON

"WILD AMERICA"

Sage Hall, Smith College, Northampton, Mass., Thur., Feb. 18, 8:00 P.M.

Horticultural Hall, Worcester, Mass., Fri., Feb. 19, 8:00 P.M.

New England Mutual Hall, Boston, Mass., Sat., Feb. 20, 10:30 A.M.



## Thumbnail Sketches of Our Vice-Presidents



MRS. AUGUSTUS HEMENWAY, of Milton, now ninety-five years of age, is the only surviving founder of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Her earliest recollection of bird life is her enjoyment in seeing and hearing the many Orioles that nested high in the trees about her father's country house in Longwood each spring and the flocks of Bluebirds among the apple blossoms of the orchard. There she grew up, and with the help of her father, Amos A. Lawrence, she became acquainted with horses and cows among the domestic stock and with the wild inhabitants of the woods and fields of the neighborhood.

Mrs. Hemenway recalls that in her youth it was a usual sport for children to hunt for birds' eggs, and almost every child had a collection. Birds were very plentiful in those days. But even at that time some conservation was practiced in collecting eggs, as often only two were taken from each clutch, and the eggs were carefully kept in boxes divided into compartments and covered with transparent muslin.

Mrs. Hemenway, then Harriet Lawrence, had a friend, Minna B. Hall, who lived across the street from her and who had similar interests. Their early efforts to save endangered birds and the consequent founding of the Massachusetts Audubon Society is best told in statements made by these two old friends on the occasion of the Society's Fiftieth Anniversary celebration in Boston on February 19, 1946. One day Miss Hall took to Miss Lawrence the *Boston Blue Book*. They marked the names of the ladies of fashion who would be likely to wear egrets in their hats or in their hair. They had heard that Snowy Egrets in the Florida Everglades were being exterminated by plume hunters who shot the old birds, leaving the young to starve on the nest. These plumes brought a high price on the market. "We then sent out circulars asking the women to join a society for the protection of birds, especially the egret. Some women joined, and some who preferred to wear the feathers would not join. We then went to see Mr. William Brewster, of Cambridge, and asked him if he would be our president. He accepted, and we had our first meeting at Mrs. Hemenway's house on Clarendon Street on February 10, 1886."

This was the beginning of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Mrs. Hemenway served for many years on the Board of Directors, as did Miss Minna B. Hall, the latter remaining active on the Board until her death in 1951. The Society is now fortunate in having, as Mrs. Hemenway's successor on the Board of Directors, her daughter, Mrs. John Richardson, of Milton.

Until a few years ago, when Mrs. Hemenway came to spend the winters in Boston she would stop frequently at Audubon House to say how much she enjoyed the Audubon window displays as she walked along Newbury Street. Her interest in the Society has always been keen, her inspiration great, and her contributions most generous. Today the Massachusetts Audubon Society is the oldest of all existing State Audubon societies in America, thanks to the effort and interest initiated by Mrs. Hemenway and Miss Hall.

C. RUSSELL MASON

## Report of the Auditors

## MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET

As at October 31, 1953

## ASSETS

Cash in banks and on hand .....		\$ 17,873
Accounts receivable .....		3,747
Inventories of merchandise — at cost .....		24,685
Cook's Canyon dining hall construction costs to be charged against annuity fund when it becomes available to the Society .....	\$ 6,894	
Property improvements and other expenditures applicable to future periods (being amortized by periodic charges to operating expenses) .....	6,201	13,095
Annuity fund savings bank deposit .....		6,894
Other investments:		
Marketable securities (\$443,072 at current quotations) .....	320,075	
Other securities (with no published quotations) .....	2	
Savings bank deposits .....	9,578	329,655
		<u>\$395,949</u>
Sanctuary fund assets:		
Wild life sanctuaries — at nominal amounts where donated, plus expenditures by the Society:		
Ipswich River .....	55,263	
Moose Hill .....	17,660	
Arcadia .....	3,753	
Six other sanctuaries .....	6	76,682
Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston .....		17,537
		<u>\$ 94,219</u>

## LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

Accounts payable .....		3,585
Amounts withheld from payrolls .....		1,264
Contributions for purchase of Marblehead Neck		
Sanctuary .....	17,635	
Other funds expendable for special purposes (Schedule I) .....	2,875	20,510
Annuity fund (Schedule II) .....		6,894
Legacies and memorial funds (endowment) (Schedule III):		
Principal and income unrestricted (reduced by deficits from operations) .....	244,688	
Principal restricted, income unrestricted .....	34,624	
Principal and income restricted .....	50,327	
		<u>329,639</u>
Gains realized on investments during the year ended		
October 31, 1953 .....	\$2,386	
Less net losses to October 31, 1952 .....	927	1,459
Reserve fund (Schedule IV) .....		32,598
		<u>\$395,949</u>
Sanctuary Funds (unchanged since October 31, 1952)		76,682
Audubon House Building Fund .....		17,537
		<u>\$ 94,219</u>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

Year Ended October 31, 1953

## Income:

Interest and dividends received, exclusive of \$2,713 apportioned to funds for special purposes (Schedule I) .....		\$ 16,884
Dues:		
Active members .....	\$13,641	
Contributing members .....	3,620	
Supporting members .....	5,910	23,171
Unrestricted donations .....		14,121
Fees and donations for educational work .....		65,025
Donations for current expenses of sanctuaries .....		4,651
Funds for special purposes (Schedule I):		
Received during the year .....	7,625	
Expended in excess of receipts .....	2,936	
Used during the year (expenses included below) .....		10,561
Profit on merchandise sales .....		24,652
Lecture course and miscellaneous income .....		538
Total income .....		<u>159,603</u>

## Operating expenses (note):

## Administrative and general:

Salaries and wages .....	42,386	
Office maintenance and expenses and other administrative and general expenses .....	21,324	63,710
Teachers' salaries and other educational expenses .....		68,727
Bulletins .....		9,392
Salaries and other operating expenses of sanctuaries:		
Arcadia .....	6,944	
Moose Hill .....	5,393	
Cook's Canyon .....	4,957	
Pleasant Valley .....	5,190	
Ipswich River .....	6,621	29,105
Records of New England Birds .....		194
Total expenses .....		<u>171,128</u>

Excess of expenses over income for the year,  
charged against unrestricted legacies and memorial funds (Schedule III) .....

\$ 11,525

Note — Operating expenses generally are recorded in the accounts as they are paid. At October 31, 1953 the amount of unpaid expenses was not significant.

**SCHEDULE I — OTHER FUNDS EXPENDABLE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES**  
**Year Ended October 31, 1953**

	Balances November 1, 1952	Receipts (see note below)	Charges	Balances October 31, 1953
Funds available for sanctuary expenses only:				
Ipswich River	\$3,041	\$3,420	\$ 6,461	
Pleasant Valley	2,135	90	51	\$2,174
Nahant Thicket	583			583
Cook's Canyon	16	3,693	3,709	
Moose Hill		249	249	
	<hr/> 5,775	<hr/> 7,452	<hr/> 10,470	<hr/> 2,757
Francis H. Allen Memorial Fund		105		105
Smith Club Room Fund	36	13	36	13
Elizabeth Loring Lending Library Fund		55	55	
	<hr/> \$5,811	<hr/> \$7,625	<hr/> \$10,561	<hr/> \$2,875

Note — Restricted interest and dividends included in receipts:

Ipswich River Sanctuary .....	\$ 67
Cook's Canyon Sanctuary .....	2,352
Moose Hill Sanctuary .....	249
Pleasant Valley Sanctuary .....	45
	<hr/> \$2,713

**SCHEDULE II — ANNUITY FUND**  
**Year Ended October 31, 1953**

Proceeds of sale of house and land at Cook's Canyon, not used for sanctuary purposes (held in trust by agreement with the Cook heirs, the income to be paid to one of the heirs during her life, after which the Directors of the Society have determined that the principal will be applied to defray construction costs of the dining hall) .....	<hr/> \$6,894
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**SCHEDULE III — LEGACIES AND MEMORIAL FUNDS (ENDOWMENT)**  
**Year Ended October 31, 1953**

Principal and income unrestricted:		
Balance November 1, 1952 .....		\$254,596
Received during the year:		
William H. Westcott Trust .....	\$ 117	
Estate of Heloise Meyer .....	500	
Estate of William P. Hastings .....	1,000	1,617
		<hr/> 256,213
Excess of expenses over income for the year .....		11,525
Balance October 31, 1953 .....		<hr/> \$244,688

## Principal restricted, income unrestricted:

Balance November 1, 1952, unchanged during the year	\$ 34,524
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## Principal and income restricted:

Balance November 1, 1952	46,421
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## Received during the year:

## Pleasant Valley Sanctuary endowment:

Estate of Heloise Meyer	2,000	
Warfield Longcope Memorial Fund	565	2,565

## Moose Hill Sanctuary Endowment:

Estate of Mrs. Forrest M. Jenkins (additional)	1,341
--	-------

## Cook's Canyon Sanctuary:

Estate of Florence H. Read	8,966
Deduct charges for construction of dining hall	8,966

Balance October 31, 1953	\$ 50,327
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## SCHEDULE IV — RESERVE FUND

Year Ended October 31, 1953

Balance November 1, 1952	\$31,398
Received from 12 new life members	1,200
Balance October 31, 1953	\$32,598

## Report of the Auditors

Auditing Committee,  
Massachusetts Audubon Society,  
Boston, Massachusetts.

We have examined the balance sheet of the Massachusetts Audubon Society as at October 31, 1953, the related statement of income and expenses and schedules of changes in funds for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned balance sheet, statement of income and expenses and schedules of changes in funds present fairly the financial position of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at October 31, 1953 and the results of its financial operations for the year then ended on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Boston, Massachusetts  
January 7, 1954

LYBRAND, ROSS BROS. & MONTGOMERY

## Report of Auditing Committee

To the Board of Directors:

The Auditing Committee reports that it employed Messrs. Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery, Certified Public Accountants, to examine the accounts for the year ended October 31, 1953 and to verify the same according to law. The report of the Auditors is given herewith; we have considered it and we recommend that it be accepted by the Directors.

ROGER ERNST  
EDWIN C. JOHNSON  
ELLIOTT B. CHURCH

Jan. 19, 1954



## Reviews of Recent Acquisitions

**ROBINS IN THE GARDEN.** By Olive L. Earle. William Morrow and Co., New York. 1953. 64 pages. \$2.00.

Young children will have a delightful time with Miss Earle's presentation of Robins through the season in her garden. Not only is the text well written for children, but they will find the large type easy to read, and the illustrations are beautifully done.

The story starts on a cold March morning when the first Robin arrived in the garden and, probably hungry and cold, sat hunched on a branch. The feeding station is found, and White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Cardinals associate with him. Later a mate appears, the nest is built, the young birds are hatched, and the cycle closes with the young Robins heading southward.

Throughout the book the Robins are tied in with their environment and associating animals — snowdrops and pussy willows, apple blossoms and garden flowers, turtles, garter snake, Blue Jay, and family cat — all closely related to a youngster's observations day by day.

**C. RUSSELL MASON**  
**PLANT DISEASES.** By Ernest Gram and Anna Weber. Edited and adapted by R. W. G. Dennis. Translated from the Danish by Evelyn Ramsden. Philosophical Library, New York, and MacDonald, London. 1953. 618 pages. \$18.50.

This excellent reference work on plant diseases has been written by pathologists of international reputation from the point of view of growers, nurserymen, and homeowners, all of whom should find the book a source of valuable information in helping to keep plant diseases under control and thus secure the best results with plant life. The 350 photographs and drawings and ten color plates aid in making the instructional text clear.

The first section of the volume deals with the nature of plant diseases, a preliminary to an intelligent understanding of control measures. Included in this section are the causes of plant diseases, their sources and development, and their economic importance.

One section each is devoted to the diseases of tree and bush fruits, diseases of vegetables and herbaceous fruits, and diseases of ornamental trees and other plants. Another section is devoted to control measures, ranging from quarantine regulations and seed treatment to spraying and dusting. The reviewer is glad to see emphasized here control by means of choice of varieties, methods of cultivation, and biological aids. An excellent annotated list of chemical fungicides is provided and extensive bibli-

ographies are included under each section.

Although written by Europeans for European conditions, not only the plants used, but the diseases found are of such general distribution that the material is also applicable to North America. It is good to find such a text so simply and understandably written that it can be comfortably used by the layman.

**C. RUSSELL MASON**

**TELLING TREES.** By Julius King. Illustrated by Richard G. Sigafoos. William Sloane Associates, New York. 1953. 127 pages. \$2.00.

In recent years there have been published many books on trees, and thus one is faced with the problem of selecting those most suited to his needs. Here we have a field guide with certain most desirable attributes. The format is attractive, it is well bound and should stand up under hard usage, and the size is well-adapted for carrying with ease. The authors have used an interesting technique of picturing the specimens against a background of squares, each representing one inch; thus at a glance the size of the leaves or fruit can be easily estimated. Included in the book is the admirable key to identification of trees in winter by their buds, reprinted by permission of Rutherford Platt.

One drawback is that too wide an area is covered. In a volume of this size it would be manifestly impossible to include all major trees of the whole United States. However, if the reader were to list the ten most common trees of his own area and then check this list against those included in the book he would find certain serious omissions. For example, in southeastern Massachusetts he would immediately notice the absence of pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*, and scrub oak, *Quercus ilicifolia*.

Then, again, the book is restricted to native species, whereas today we are faced with many introduced plants that have become naturalized, such as silverleaf, or white, poplar, *Populus alba*, in Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Any truly satisfactory generalized tree guide at the present time would seem to require the inclusion of the more common of these naturalized and escaped plants.

Certain errors have crept into the text. The distribution maps, for example, show that American holly, *Ilex opaca*, does not occur in Massachusetts, whereas it is found as far north as the eastern part of that State. The maps also show that loblolly pine, *Pinus taeda*, is found as far north as Maine, whereas its northern limits are southern New Jersey. In the description of yellow birch, *Betula lutea*, the fruit is

## REVIEWS, cont.

referred to as a strobile rather than a strobile; swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*, is listed as *Q. bicolor* in the text and *Q. bicolor* in the index; catalpa, *Catalpa bignonioides*, is referred to as catalpa; Osage orange, *Toxylon pomiferum*, is shown as found only in its original range, though *Gray's Manual* comments that it has "spread from cultivation to roadsides and clearings north to southern New England." There is no mention that the leaves of sweet bay, *Magnolia virginiana*, are evergreen. A rather serious misstatement appears when the flowers of flowering dogwood are referred to as "yellowish-white, with four large petals," when these so-called petals are really bracts subtending the relatively insignificant flowers. In the description of catalpa, no reference is made to the fact that the leaves occur in whorls of three, although in the key to winter identification of trees this characteristic is properly listed.

As a handy and practical aid in tree identification, both summer and winter, this reasonably priced volume should be most helpful. It will be a valuable addition to the library of the outdoor enthusiast and will make his woodland rambles both more enjoyable and more educational.

HARRY LEVI

**SONGBIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN.** By John K. Terres. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York. 1953. 274 pages. \$3.95.

The author of this volume, who is managing editor of *Audubon Magazine* and was formerly field biologist for the United States Soil Conservation Service, has drawn on his own experience with birds in his back yard as well as material from many other sources, to present a world of information on encouraging songbirds to make use of your garden and thus bring enjoyment to the household throughout the year.

Getting acquainted with the birds, providing food, birdhouses, shelter, water, and ornamental plantings are all discussed, with an interspersing of anecdotes from the experiences of Mr. Terres and his friends. A special chapter is devoted to hummingbirds and another to the care and feeding of young birds. There is even a chapter on making sounds to attract birds, how to meet the various problems that arise — such as damage to feeding stations by squirrels and to buildings by flickers and what to do about the neighbor's cat — and sound advice regarding hawks and shrieks that may be attracted about the property to prey on the concentration of small birds.

Included in the appendices are lists of foods and food plants for birds in all parts of the country, also a brief list of recommended reference books on birds. This is a valuable and readable book for all who wish to attract songbirds to their gardens.

C. RUSSELL MASON

**KNOWING YOUR TREES.** By G. H. Collingwood and Warren D. Brush. 816 illustrations. The American Forestry Association, Washington, D. C. 1947. 312 pages. \$5.00.

This world-renowned, often-reviewed publication needs no introduction to the forestry-minded public. The first edition, in 1937, contained descriptions of only 50 trees. A revised edition in 1941 included 101 trees, and the present edition, under the guidance of Dr. Brush, includes 150 trees.

The photographs, obtained from diverse sources, are outstanding. Each evergreen is represented by a picture of the entire tree in its natural habitat, as well as one of the bark and one of the fruits and twigs. For the deciduous trees, the authors have enhanced the usefulness of the volume by including a picture of the tree in winter.

The outlines of the range maps for each species are vague. They do indicate general distribution, and when used with the range description in the text they give a more complete picture. The narrative for each species covers, in addition to the range, the size, bark, and flowers. Historical references and the uses of the trees and their by-products are adequately presented.

To simplify quick reference, the chief characteristics of each species might better be set apart and printed in bold type.

DAVID MINER

**TREES AND THEIR STORY.** By Dorothy Sterling. Photographs by Myron Ehrenberg. Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York. 1953. 119 pages. \$2.50.

This book for youngsters is a well-illustrated introduction to the story of trees — their parts, their functions, their identifying features. The story begins with a very short chapter on roots and continues logically through the description of the trunk and leaves. The clues given for the identification of various characteristics are well illustrated with clear photographs. Only four pages in this book are without one or more photographs.

The text which describes the clues is at times too technical for the neophyte, but the more difficult terms are explained. Although this book just mentions the important subject of soil and its relation to tree growth, it does give in detail the value of trees in soil conservation.

## REVIEWS, cont.

The author and photographer have presented their story in an easy conversational style that will give many a budding naturalist his first glimpse of the marvels of trees.

DAVID MINER

**HUNTING CROWS YEAR ROUND.** By Charles S. Adams. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1953. 101 pages. \$2.95.

Before reading this book, I frankly admit I had a biased approach. However, I found it to be a most well-written little volume, though I am not in full agreement with several of the author's statements. He apparently has a great love and remarkable knowledge of the out-of-doors, which is not true of very many of the so-called sportsmen, the type referred to in the book as "slaughterers."

It has always been my viewpoint that game should be adjunct to the sport and utilized for food, when the supply is abundant. The practice of shooting Crows as a "rewarding and entertaining pastime" under guise of "balance control" seems to me a rather sterile sort of sportsmanship. Use of a mounted Great Horned Owl (that dreaded enemy of the Crow) as a decoy to lure them in is recommended to these trigger-happy individuals.

The author commends friends who "know when to stop shooting." At a bag limit of twenty-five he is glad to stop. "They have shot enough for one day." How is this arbitrary figure arrived at? Why not fifteen or fifty? Crow control, if necessary, should be determined by sound knowledge of the problem. It is apparent that the author has given the matter much study, and it was interesting to read that he hoped this sagacious rascal would not completely "disappear from our landscape." He has nothing to fear, for long after mankind has exterminated himself the Crow and his humble earth brother the Woodchuck will survive.

ELMER FOYE

**ERNEST THOMPSON SETON'S AMERICA:** Selections from the Writings of the Artist-Naturalist. Edited with an Introduction by Farida A. Wiley. With Contributions by Julia M. Seton, and Drawings by Ernest Thompson Seton. The Devin-Adair Company, New York, 1954. xxiii, 413 pages. \$5.00.

This book is an "appetizer." The newcomer who reads the selections from the works of Ernest Thompson Seton of which it is composed will have his appetite whetted and will not rest quietly until he has read more. And the older friends who remember the eagerness with which they read Seton's delightful animal stories as they were printed over the years will hunt up their old copies which have been gathering dust on a bookcase shelf or hie themselves to a public library to refresh their memories of the Sandhill Stag, Lobo the Wolf, Bannertail the Squirrel, and others of the animals about whom Seton wrote. Seton's animals were true to life, and the stories he told so vividly were based upon fact and his years of careful observation, backed by many volumes of carefully written notes. They can be read today with as keen interest as when they first appeared. And Seton's illustrations are also the result of his careful observations of living animals.

The editor, Farida A. Wiley, is on the staff of the Audubon Nature Camp in Maine and a member of the staff of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. This book is the second of a series which started with *John Burroughs' America*. The selections are taken from Seton's autobiographical *Trail of an Artist-Naturalist* and many other books and articles by this prolific and versatile writer. They are well chosen, and Miss Wiley has also written an Introduction. Seton's widow, Julia M. Seton, has contributed a chapter on her "Impressions" of her picturesque husband and his career. The illustrations, though well selected, are all too few.

JOHN B. MAY

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Most of the books reviewed in the *Bulletin* are on sale at AUDUBON HOUSE, but if not, we will order them for you. And please don't forget that we are anxious to build up both our Elizabeth Loring Lending Library and the Francis H. Allen Reference Library, and that gifts of suitable books will be greatly appreciated.

## REVIEWS, cont.

**PUFFINS.** By R. M. Lockley. Colored frontispiece, 16 pages photographs, drawings. J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London. 1953. xi, 186 pages. Price \$4.00.

The Massachusetts Audubon Society is probably one of the most broadly constituted organizations which has birds as its principal bond. Its membership ranges from world-famous professional ornithologists, through all intermediate stages, to the housewives whose principal contact with birds is at their window feeders. It is difficult to imagine a book which could be of interest to all of them, and certainly if one were to suggest a life-history study it would hardly seem a good choice. Yet Mr. Lockley has succeeded in producing a book, which is well-nigh tailor-made for all members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. This is a volume which can, with its reading, make the tyro feel like a dyed-in-the-wool scientist — and make the hardest-boiled scientist have considerable fun (while learning a good deal that he didn't know). It is information in its most sugar-coated form.

Every one of our members probably has an interest in Puffins. Those who don't know them well certainly have been at least curious by their grotesque appearance. Those who have had the good fortune to become acquainted know Puffins as a most engaging and entertaining species. Lockley, while never deviating from that rigid code which should be the common practice of all scientists, nevertheless writes in his usual charming and storybook fashion an account which all of our members can read with profit and, equally, all with amusement and pleasure.

The Puffin, *Fratercula arctica*, is one of the commonest sea birds of the north Atlantic. The species, divided into three races, breeds on the eastern shores of North America from Maine northward (Matinicus Rock is its southernmost nesting site and the only one in the United States), in Greenland, and on various north Atlantic islands, across to Norway, and then southward throughout the islands around Britain to the Channel Islands and France. Scary individuals are very occasionally seen from Massachusetts shores. The only other puffins in the world are the Horned Puffin, *Fratercula corniculata*, and the Tufted Puffin, *Lunda cirrhata*, which breed along the shores of the north Pacific and Bering Sea.

Lockley's principal observations have been made during a twelve years' residence on the Pembrokeshire island of Skokholm (well known from his books *I Know an Island*, *The Way to an Island*, and

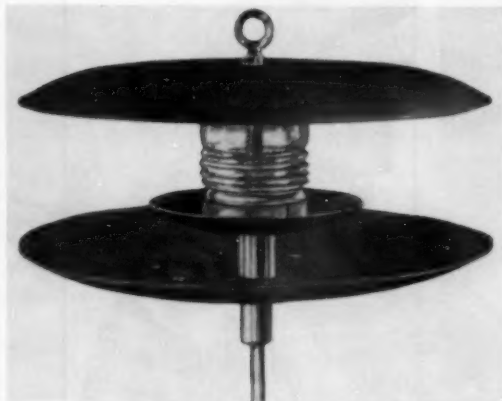
others), and during the course of a survey in 1946 by the West Wales Field Society on Skomer, an island to the north of Skokholm. As a consequence, he was in a wonderful position to gather material for this work. Additionally, he has made many trips to other puffin-nesting islands of the north Atlantic and has written a life-history — that of the shearwaters.

In lyrical prose, Lockley takes us chapter by chapter through all aspects of a Puffin's life. He begins with a quite convincing anthropomorphical judgment of the bird's behavior and "thought" processes. In the hands of many others, this approach has been a kind of Waterloo, but he manages gracefully to inject a properly guarded scientific attitude when his own humanizing descriptions seem to be departing toward such as we like to imagine. As a result, there is a maximum quantity of easily enjoyable reading, and always the feeling that Lockley will (even in the pages in which he most humanizes the bird's action) keep us on the path of simple and straightforward scientific fact.

While concluding that there now may be about ten million Puffins in the world, he is sufficiently cautious to add that the number may be twenty million, or even thirty million. Certainly the present figure is a reduction of the population of a hundred years ago. Yet it is still one of the most numerous sea birds in the Atlantic. Although the Puffin is to a considerable degree taken for food in the Faroe Islands and elsewhere, it is not this which is decimating the species. Rather, he says, it is because of the pollution of the sea by waste oil. The north Atlantic area which is the Puffin's world (and on which ocean, indeed, it spends the winter — it is seldom recorded within sight of land during that season) is the ocean most densely used by the world's tanker tonnage. The suffering and death of Puffins in untold numbers can be attributed to man and his irresponsible dumping of oil from ships.

The Puffin's gregariousness, its wonderfully whimsical and droll actions, its easy observation, which is made all the easier because of its natural curiosity, all add up to making this one of the most enjoyable birds to watch. In my entire life I have never been so completely delighted with birds as I was with Puffins during a trip with Lockley to the islands of Skomer and Skokholm. This book, for me, entirely recreates and enlarges on that experience. The frontispiece (in color, by Tunncliffe) is well done, but the series of drawings by Nancy Catford throughout the text are rather more whimsical than a book of such quality and substance deserves.

ROSARIO MAZZEO



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## From Our Correspondence

### Bird Watching Lightens Morning Chores

I must leave my vegetable peeling to thank the *Bulletin* for making me a dish-washing enthusiast.

Two or three years ago an article spoke of the necessity of water for birds during the winter. I followed the suggestion made by one of your contributors of placing an electric bulb under a tin of water. Fortunately, we have an outside plug. I rimmed a metal basin with a piece of garden hose and set the 25-watt bulb inside. The rubber acted as insulation for the electric fixture. Over this I put a pie plate of water. The heat from the bulb kept the water unfrozen in the coldest weather, and the birds came in great numbers.

In fact, the number of birds was beyond the capacity of the pie plate, and last year I decided that my enthusiasm was great enough to keep our bird bath filled. It is only six feet from a side door, and during the coldest days I never have to thaw the ice with a two-quart pitcher of hot water more than six times. I am well rewarded. One day last winter I counted 143 birds in forty-five minutes, and they were by no means duplications. There may

have been more birds, but I had work to do and could not look out of the window every moment. Incidentally, it is a well-placed window.

Several kinds of sparrows come daily, Starlings — to my great pleasure, as they degrub our lawn in payment — Nuthatches, Blue Jays, and, on several occasions, six Evening Grosbeaks. Once I counted nine Starlings and three Tree Sparrows bathing at one time, with the temperature below freezing.

This is one of the easiest ways to learn the habits of birds and to realize that birds have dislikes as do people. One sparrow hates to take a bath, and it is fun to see the trouble he goes to in avoiding even wetting his feet. Recently one sparrow was in such haste for a drink that he skidded across the frozen surface on his tail feathers. Needless to say, I hustled out with hot water, and before I got back to the window he and two others were drinking. Within three minutes word had traveled around the neighborhood that water was available, and more than fifty birds had assembled — and there was no squabbling among them. The Starlings, with their strong bills, keep water holes open for the small birds on a very cold day.  
Ipswich, Mass.

Helen K. Lunt

To make your *Bulletin* self-supporting, we need advertisements. Have You something our other readers may want? Why not place a small advertisement in the next *Bulletin*? And when dealing with advertisers, PLEASE MENTION THE BULLETIN.



**RICHARD STUART PHILLIPS**, author and educator, lives in Findlay, Ohio with his wife and two young children, Nancy and Thomas Stuart. He is the author of many articles that have appeared in *Audubon Magazine*, *Nature Magazine*, *Field and Stream*, and in many other conservation journals. He has also written a book, *Birds of Hancock County, Ohio*. His chief interest at present is in field work on the birds of Mexico.



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## Field Notes

That good use is made of the Field Notes published in the *Bulletin* is indicated by a recent comment from Francis M. Weston, long active in bird observation in Florida, especially in the Pensacola region. He writes: "Saw a record of Eared Grebe in a recent M. A. S. *Bulletin* which made me wonder if we have one here sometimes. I went out the next Sunday and found one!!! The first record for Florida." He adds that three other observers had an opportunity to look over the bird carefully.

Mrs. Elizabeth Romaine and A. Whitman Higgins, of Middleboro, observed a COOPER'S HAWK in Sandwich, Dec. 3, where they also noted a PACIFIC LOON, one RED-THROATED and seven COMMON LOONS. At the home of Edward Crowell they found three female BALTIMORE ORIOLES but missed the PINE GROSBEAKS Mr. Crowell had seen earlier. Also in Sandwich they found an immature YELLOW-BREASTED SAP-SUCKER. On December 9 Mr. Higgins found a WOODCOCK in Middleboro. BLUEBIRDS were around for several days inspecting his bird boxes.

Dr. John B. May noted a RED-TAILED HAWK in a large oak on the Brandegee estate in Brookline, Dec. 12, and a few minutes later saw eight HOODED MERGANSERS in Hammond's Pond, Chestnut Hill.

Mrs. Florence Ramsdell, of Natick, reports seeing a SNOWY OWL near Portland, Maine, Dec. 13, and again on Dec. 20, at the latter date noting that the nearby marsh was teeming with mice and rats. The Snowy Owl is still unprotected in Maine in spite of its unquestionable value as a destroyer of rodent pests. Mrs. Ramsdell also saw a NORTHERN SHRIKE in South Portland, Dec. 20.

Although our Associate Editor, Dr. May, did not make a Christmas census this year, he had some rather interesting observations. On Dec. 24, as he came out of our printer's office in North Abington, Mrs. May called his attention to a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT in the evergreens by the office door. Driving home through Marshfield, they saw a HERMIT THRUSH, and at North Scituate eight SNOW BUNTINGS, making an interesting combination for one day. In Hingham Harbor there were 500-1000 GREATER SCAUP. On Dec. 26 the Mays saw 200-300 PURPLE SANDPIPERS at North Scituate, and a RED-TAILED HAWK; at Peggotty Beach, Scituate, there were about 300 RING-BILLED GULLS in a great raft, with a

few HERRING GULLS and one BLACK-BACK for comparison; at home in Cohasset a BROWN CREEPER greeted them, and their feeders were well patronized with one SONG SPARROW and three WHITE-THROATS among the less common visitors at that season. At the North River (Rogers') nursery were one FOX SPARROW, three SWAMP SPARROWS, and many Whitethroats and Song and Tree Sparrows. At a pond in Plymouth were two BALDPATES, two PINTAILS, one GADWALL. Chatham yielded five RING-BILLED GULLS, and Orleans five GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. Jan. 1 there were more than thirty MOURNING DOVES at North Scituate and an immature RED-TAILED HAWK at Cohasset (it flew across Bound Brook to Scituate). Jan. 2 there were three RED-WINGED BLACKBIRDS, eight MEADOWLARKS and one NORTHERN SHRIKE in the same tree beside Musquashiat Pond, North Scituate; by the marsh behind Peggotty Beach an adult RED-SHOULDERED HAWK; in Marshfield three RED-TAILS, a SPARROW HAWK and a SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Marshfield also supplied two SWAMP SPARROWS, and Standish Shore, South Duxbury, three BLUEBIRDS, eight ROBINS, fifteen RED-BACKED SAND-PIPERS.

Bartlett Hendricks informs us that Eugene Scott and Michael Cleary saw a PHOEBE at Great Barrington, Dec. 5, and a small flock of RUSTY BLACK-BIRDS on the same date.

Laurence B. Fletcher, of Cohasset, was walking with a friend at "The Glades" in North Scituate, Dec. 13, and they heard a COMMON LOON calling from the ocean, reminding them of a New Hampshire lake in summer. Miss Jane O'Regan had a similar experience with a Loon at Lakeville the same week end.

We have an item from the *Lawrence Daily Eagle* for Dec. 22, 1953, supplying details on the killing of a CATTLE EGRET in Maine. The bird was shot by a farmer, identified at the Portland Museum of Natural History, and added to the collections of the Gorham State Teachers College. Another report of Cattle Egrets is from Bermuda, where Miss Patricia Brown, a teacher of nature study in the Bermuda High School for Girls and who had attended the National Audubon Society's Hog Island Camp, identified one to three Cattle Egrets recently.

Henry Guild reports seeing an Egret, probably an American, in Eastham, Dec. 14.

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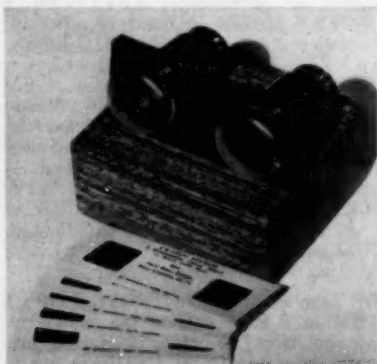
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## FIELD NOTES, cont.

Among the many birds which visited the feeders of Mrs. Pellandini in Lincoln this past year was a cock BOB-WHITE, and from four to nine hen PHEASANTS came regularly, with two cocks joining them occasionally.

A GLAUCCOUS GULL was noted in Forest Park, Springfield, Dec. 9, by several members of the Allen Bird Club, as reported by Mrs. Grace Barth. An unusual record for that region.

Mrs. Henry Cummings observed twenty-five MOURNING DOVES in Newton Centre, Dec. 20.

Edward C. Helland, a teacher at the Foster School in Hingham, reported on Jan. 6 that a SNOWY OWL had come down a chimney into a house in Hull and had been brought to the Hull school. After her class at Derby Academy, Mrs. Turner, of the Audubon educational staff, went to the Foster School and told the children something about the Snowy Owl, and later Dr. May took it to Moose Hill Sanctuary, where Mr. Bussewitz will soon release it, as it is apparently uninjured — though quite blackened with chimney soot.

One morning recently, while eating breakfast, Mrs. R. A. Rawding, of Weston, heard a loud noise outside their window where they have a suet holder containing some of the "Birds' Christmas Pudding," made according to the directions in the *Bulletin* for December. She found to her surprise and delight that a PILEATED WOODPECKER was helping itself generously to the pudding.

Mrs. Agnes Leghorn reports a YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER on Dec. 4 and 5 at her home in Osterville. From the number of fresh holes in her trees, Mrs. Leghorn thinks the bird had been there for some time unobserved. Four days later the bird was picked up dead.

A MOCKINGBIRD was seen at Winter Harbor, Maine, Nov. 11, by Philip T. Coolidge, who said the bird seemed to have discovered its reflection in the glass of a door in a car with a Maryland registration. He asks if the Mocker thought it could hitchhike a ride back to a warmer climate.

Six BLUEBIRDS were seen in Wilbraham, Dec. 31, by the Lee V. D. Schermerhorns. Ten more were seen in Kingston, Jan. 5, by Mrs. Edith B. Mulliken, spending the day at her feeders and eating ravenously both seeds and chickadee pudding.

Two RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS were seen at the feeder of Mrs. Harold F. Upton in North Reading, Jan. 1 and 2.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLERS have been reported from Belmont by Mr. and Mrs. Karl Zerbe, Dec. 10 and 15; and in Framingham Centre by Mrs. F. G. Pourland, Dec. 23 and Jan. 2.

Earle Thomas and David Riedel and their wives observed a YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT at Holyoke, Dec. 5, and Mrs. Malcolm Hampton, of Waltham, reports one eating rose hips on Dec. 12.

An albinistic ENGLISH SPARROW (EUROPEAN WEAVERBIRD) has been coming to the feeders of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Foster in Worcester for the third winter.

Mrs. Carleton Daniels, of Islington, called to report BALTIMORE ORIOLES at her feeder, eating suet. On Dec. 23 a male was identified, and later that day a female appeared.

A male CARDINAL was seen at a feeder in Ipswich, Dec. 23 and 24, by Nora Norman.

G. Blake Johnson had two LARK SPARROWS at his feeder in Framingham, Dec. 16.

Miss Olivia Flynt, of Monson, observed an immature WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW in a flock of English Sparrows feeding on her lawn, Dec. 17; on Christmas Day a male DICKCISSEL appeared at the tray with the other wintering birds. Another White-crowned Sparrow was reported by Mr. and Mrs. Stanwood K. Bolton, Sr., of Concord, visiting their feeders throughout December.

Mrs. Edna Hald, of Stow, reports many boarders at her feeders, including five GRAY SQUIRRELS regularly and one RED SQUIRREL, Jan. 1 and 9. On Jan. 9 a COWBIRD appeared, and on Jan. 10 her first EVENING GROSEBEAK.

Henry S. Forbes observed a three-pronged buck WHITE-TAILED DEER in the Blue Hills at Milton, Nov. 26, and two OTTERS swimming and feeding in a pond in Canton, Nov. 17 and 30. Oscar W. Root saw an Otter eating a fish in Bradford, Dec. 20, and he reports that a BOBCAT was killed and the bounty collected in North Andover, Dec. 17.

Davis Crompton reports, with other mammals observed by him, a RED FOX seen in Dana, Dec. 13.

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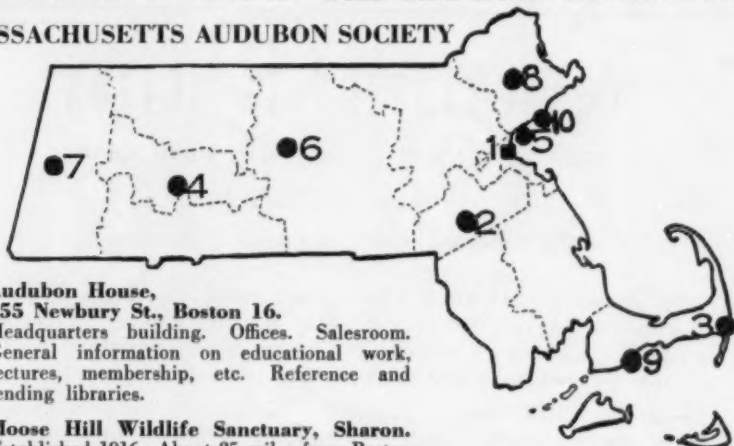
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